

TO: Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

RE: GM 743 – Nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board

Aloha Senator Lee,

It has been an honor and a joy to serve on the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board for the past four years. I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in serving another four-year term.

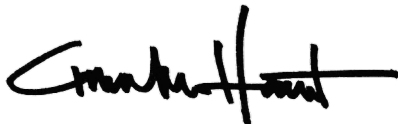
I am deeply committed to helping the public preserve our built environment. For the past twenty years, I have dedicated my career to studying, documenting, teaching, and restoring Hawai'i's historic architecture. My background includes earning a Doctorate of Architecture from the University of Hawai'i, authoring books and articles on local architecture, and teaching the next generation of architects at UH.

In addition to my academic work, I serve on several boards for historic preservation non-profits. I am the past president of the Docomomo Hawai'i Chapter and an advisory board member for the Liljestrand House. For the last six years, I have also led the restoration of Vladimir Ossipoff's personal cabin in the Waianae mountain range. Professionally, my firm, Kokomo Studio, specializes in the restoration and renovation of mid-century residences. This collective experience provides me with specific expertise regarding the 1940s to 1970s properties that frequently come before the board.

Regarding potential conflicts of interest, property owners occasionally consult me on the benefits of nominating their buildings for the historic register. In instances where I have had prior communication with a property owner regarding a nomination, I recognize this could be perceived as a bias and will continue to recuse myself from those specific votes.

I view this work as a privilege and hope to continue helping preserve the landmarks that make Hawai'i unique. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Graham Hart
Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board Member, 2022-2026
Architect and Co-Founder of Kokomo Studio LLC

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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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 743, Submitting for Consideration to the
Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Graham Hart

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. Graham Hart is nominated to serve as a professionally qualified member of architecture on the Board. If confirmed, Graham Hart will serve until June 30, 2030. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this nomination.**

Mr. Hart is a licensed architect in the State of Hawai'i and a founding partner of Kokomo Studio. He holds a Doctor of Architecture degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where his research focused on tropical modern residential architecture. In addition to his professional practice, Mr. Hart has served as a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i School of Architecture and has been involved in preservation and architectural organizations, including DOCOMOMO US/Hawai'i and the Liljestrand Foundation. Mr. Hart has received several professional distinctions for his architectural work, including a DOCOMOMO US Modernism in America Award of Excellence (2021) for the Palehua Cabin and Guest Cottage, an IIDA Ho'ohuli Award (2019), and an AIA Honolulu Design Award of Merit (2018). He has contributed to the field through publications, presentations, and speaking engagements highlighting Hawai'i's modern architectural heritage. These accomplishments demonstrate his commitment to architectural scholarship and preservation and support his qualifications to serve on the Board.

Mr. Hart currently serves on the Board and brings thoughtful analysis, professional expertise, and a strong commitment to historic preservation. His experience as a practicing architect and preservation advocate provides valuable perspective when evaluating historic properties and nominations to the Hawai'i and National Registers.

The work of the Board plays a critical role in recognizing and protecting Hawai'i's historic resources. Mr. Hart's knowledge of architecture, preservation practice, and Hawai'i's built environment makes him well qualified to continue contributing to this work.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Hart's continued service.