

March 14, 2026

Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: GM 642 – Nomination to the Game Management Advisory Commission

Aloha Senator Lee,

As requested, I am writing to respond to the questions posed in your letter dated March 12, 2026, regarding my nomination to the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC). I am pleased to offer the following:

I wish to serve as a member of the GMAC so that I can do my part to give back to the hunting community and hunting in Hawai'i. I've been extremely fortunate to have hunted on all the major Hawaiian Islands, and I have developed lasting friendships with other hunters throughout the state based on our common love of the outdoors, the spirit of sportsmanship, and the desire to feed our families with the bounty of the 'āina. I see volunteering for the GMAC as a way to serve the local hunting community by working with our government agencies to promote and protect our way of life, and to help perpetuate well-managed, sustainable hunting in Hawai'i as a cultural practice and resource for locally sourced food for the benefit of current and future generations.

The purpose of the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) is to advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on policies and criteria related to the management, protection, and promotion of public hunting in Hawai'i. As the GMAC O'ahu Commissioner, my responsibility is to coordinate with and represent the interests of the hunting community on O'ahu—as well as hunters statewide—in discussions with DLNR and the Board.

I will work to understand the needs, concerns, and perspectives of hunters on O'ahu and ensure those viewpoints are clearly conveyed to GMAC and DLNR. To do this, I will meet regularly with local hunting organizations, including the Bushwackers Archery Club and the Pig Hunters Association of O'ahu. I will also use social media to engage with hunters who may not be part of formal organizations. In addition, I will continue my ongoing coordination with the O'ahu DLNR Wildlife Biologist to address specific hunting issues and

opportunities that affect our community. I will keep hunters informed about legislation related to hunting and encourage them to participate in public processes when their input is needed. Finally, I will contribute to the development of game management plans and other initiatives that support hunter interests, sustainable hunting practices, and responsible game management strategies.

I believe I am well qualified to serve on the GMAC for several reasons:

First, I am an avid hunter who cares deeply about hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide my family with high-quality, natural protein harvested from the land. This became especially important when my son was born with FPIES, a condition that caused severe allergic reactions whenever my wife consumed grain-fed meat while breastfeeding. Hunting allowed me to provide a reliable source of grass-fed protein that supported both my wife's health and my son's recovery. Although he has since outgrown the condition, our family continues to rely on wild game meat several times a week. This experience has given me a profound appreciation for the cultural, nutritional, and lifestyle benefits that hunting provides, and I bring that gratitude to my service on the GMAC.

Second, I am keenly aware of the challenges facing hunting and game management in Hawai'i, particularly regarding endangered species and native ecosystems. Unlike most states, all game mammals and birds in Hawai'i were introduced for hunting and are now often classified as invasive. While I consider myself a conservationist, I do not believe that complete eradication of ungulates is the only path to protecting native ecosystems. I believe there is a sustainable carrying capacity for game mammals on our landscapes, and that we must invest in research to better understand the complex factors influencing Hawai'i's ecosystems. I strongly support active, science-based game management led by qualified wildlife biologists.

Lastly, I bring experience serving on organizational boards. I previously served as a Director for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honolulu Chapter (2019–2020) and currently serve on the AIA Hawai'i State Council (2024–present). This background has strengthened my understanding of organizational processes and collaborative decision-making, which will help me contribute effectively as a GMAC member. I am also a new member of the Bushwackers Archery Club, one of O'ahu's most established hunting organizations.

If confirmed, I hope to accomplish the following goals and objectives:

- Develop updated game management plans for each island, including accurate, up to date information on population estimates and carrying capacity for each hunting unit that will inform management objectives.

- Update the DLNR Hunting Hawai'i website to include a single, comprehensive map resource that provides all current information on hunting regulations for each hunting unit on each island, including HAR 122 / 123 rules and any adaptive management rule changes in effect.
- Develop a practical program to incentivize private landowners to allow access to their lands by organized groups of hunters.
- Expand hunting opportunities through inter-agency collaboration focused on habitat preservation in more remote/pristine sites where recreational hunting can help to control game mammal populations.
- Encourage DLNR to develop more programs to increase hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation, including more in-person hunter education programs as well as "Field to Fork" programs that help new hunters to understand proper meat care and culinary preparation of wild game.

O'ahu-specific objectives:

- Coordinate organized hunting group access to BWS lands for hunting pigs and goats.
- Coordinate use of DLNR pig traps by organized hunting groups for deployment on private lands where nuisance animal abatement is requested but hunting with dogs is prohibited.

I do not believe that there is anything in my background, professional affiliations, financial interests, legal record, or prior work that could reasonably be perceived by the public as a conflict of interest or raise questions regarding my character, judgement, or ability to serve impartially on the GMAC.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this information to answer your questions. I look forward to speaking with you at my confirmation hearing. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination for the position of O'ahu Commissioner on the GMAC.

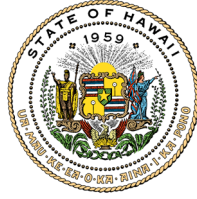
Best regards,



Richard A. Furst, AIA

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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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 642
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE GAME
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RICHARD FURST, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 642, nominating Mr. Furst to the Game Management Advisory Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Under Section 183D-4.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the Game Management Advisory Commission (Commission) shall: 1) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board); and 2) Consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor in the manner provided in Section 26-34, HRS. The Commission shall include a member from the County of Kaua'i, three members from the County of Maui (one member from each of the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i), two members from the County of Hawai'i (one member from East Hawai'i and one member from West Hawai'i), one member from the City and County of Honolulu, one at-large member, and the Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designated representative. Other than the Chairperson of the Board, each member must be a hunter licensed in the State and have leadership experience in working directly with local hunters or shooting organizations. At least one member shall have knowledge, experience, and expertise in native Hawaiian cultural practices, and no more than three members shall represent, be employed by, or be under contract to any government sector.

Mr. Furst has been nominated as a member of the Commission from the City and County of Honolulu. Mr. Furst is an active licensed hunter in the State of Hawai'i and would like to utilize his professional skills to assist the City and County in addressing obstacles related to public

hunting, access issues, utilization of non-public hunting area State lands, and wildlife urban interface issues. Mr. Furst is willing to meet with stakeholders to strengthen relationships that, in turn, will enhance game management policies and procedures. He has already demonstrated being a valuable commissioner to the island of O'ahu since his start with GMAC. He has participated in public hunter volunteer events and hunting community meetings, interviewed with hunting clubs, and engaged with the respective Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Game program staff.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

GM-642

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:18:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kaahaaina, Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of nominee Richard Furst, AIA, I advocate that he be approved to serve on the State of Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) which advises DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife on policy for regulations, enforcement and game management plans as representatives of the hunting and game community. Richard is a strong steward of planning and resource management as demonstrated through his professional practice as a licensed architect, as a member of and volunteer serving the administrative/leadership arms of the American Institute of Architects, Honolulu and Hawaii components, but most specifically as a hunter and conservationist. Richard is a long-time O'ahu kama'aina who has hunted here in the state as well as across the US for the past 20+ years and he understands that good management stems from experienced, seasoned leadership that is comprehensive, in touch and inclusive. As the father of two, he has and will pass this responsibility along to his keiki and mo'opuna, he understands native practices and is the consummate steward and respectful of the aina and its relationship to recreation, culture and our natural resources. Richard also enjoys surfing and water culture, but it is his time in our forests and ridgelines that he enjoys the most. I am a long standing friend, and trust that he will do right by our people, by our state and by our kupuna in this service. I endorse the appointment of him by this legislative committee to serve on the GMAC as one of its nine members for a three-year term as soon as possible, he will be a great addition and a valuable public servant!

Imua-

David Kaahaaina, Jr., AIA

14 March, 2026

LATE

**Testimony in Support of Richard Furst
Nominee for the Game Management Advisory Commission**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Commission,

My name is Grant Wilson, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Richard Furst for a position on the Game Management Advisory Commission.

I have had the privilege of knowing and hunting with Richard Furst for nearly 10 years, and during that time I have seen firsthand their commitment to responsible resource stewardship, community engagement, and collaborative problem-solving. His knowledge of Hawai'i's unique ecosystems—both native and game-managed—reflects years of hands-on experience, thoughtful study, and a deep respect for the diverse perspectives that shape our islands' land-use conversations.

Richard Furst consistently demonstrates the qualities needed for this commission:

- An ability to listen respectfully and incorporate community input into decision-making
- A balanced understanding of conservation, cultural practices, and hunting traditions
- Strong integrity and a clear dedication to transparent, science-informed management
- A genuine desire to improve collaboration between government and local communities

I am confident that Richard Furst will bring thoughtful insight, practical experience, and a steady, community-minded voice to the Game Management Advisory Commission. His presence would be an asset as the Commission works to address complex resource challenges and plan for the long-term sustainability of game management in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully,

Grant Wilson

Grant Wilson