

Riley W. Smith, P.E.

65-1174 Kahawai Street

Kamuela, HI 96743

Phone: (808) 936-7129

Email: rsmith@lanihau.net

April 12, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via email: senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Written Statement of Riley Smith (GM692) to WLA, as Requested by Senator Chris Lee, Chair

My name is Riley W. Smith. I am responding to the questions included in Senator Lee's letter of April 10, 2026.

1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources?

Response: I have already served my first four year term on this Board. I understand the skills that are required, the amount of time it takes to prepare for and attend meetings. I am willing to continue to make this commitment for the next four years.

2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources?

Response: I am responsible to come to the meetings prepared, to have read all the collateral info provided, to reach out to Staff to clarify any questions that I may have, to outreach to my community and understand their questions and concerns, to make prudent policy decisions that are in the best interests of the residents of the State of Hawaii and to preserve its land and natural resources. Also, I feel it important to, as much as possible, show up to meetings in person. Although Zoom is convenient, it is impersonal, non verbal cues are missed, passionate testimony by members of the public are not clearly understood. I try to show up in person, as much as possible.

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 Board and how they would inform your decision making.

Response follows:

Residency: I am a lifelong resident of the State of Hawaii. For my first thirty-nine years I resided on Oahu and for the last 32 I've lived on Hawaii island. I was raised in Kaneohe, on the windward side of Oahu. My father was Bill Smith, Jr., former Water Safety Director of the City and County of Honolulu. My mother was Moana R. Smith, a Department of Education teacher (Castle High, Kailua High, King Intermediate). I have two sisters (Billi Topp, Maureen Smith) and one brother (Kimo Smith).

Upbringing: We were all raised in/around the ocean. Since my father was responsible for all the County lifeguards on Oahu, we were always involved with swimming and ocean recreation. We all spent a lot of time at/near my dad's office at the War Memorial Natatorium as well as in Waikiki and Sans Souci beach. During summers, I worked as a lifeguard at both Makapuu and Sandy Beach Parks. I was an avid bodysurfer and former President of the Halona Point Bodysurfing Association, that conducted the annual surf meet at Sandy Beach Park. I also competed at events at Makapuu Beach, Sandy Beach, Point Panic and Ehukai Beach (Pipeline). Over the years, in addition to bodysurfing, I have been active in board surfing, standup paddling and now swim/snorkel on weekends at Waialea Beach Park (Hawaii Island, adjacent to Hapuna Beach Park).

Management/Public Works: I was the Deputy Chief Engineer, County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works, under Mayor Stephen Yamashiro. Our Department managed the County's facilities and maintenance operations (Divisions: Building, Engineering, Traffic, Automotive, Highway Maintenance, Wastewater, Solid Waste) on Hawaii island. Our additional duties included manning the Emergency Operations Center at Civil Defense and responding to natural and other disasters such as tsunami watches/response, brush fires, flooding, droughts, earthquakes, etc.

Land/Resource Management: In my time on Hawaii island, I have worked for both Parker Ranch and Lanihau/Palani Ranch. I have either been responsible for or have collaborated with others on various aspects of managing the natural resources of these two Ranches, including infrastructure (roads, fences, water systems), as well as alternative energy systems (photovoltaic – livestock water). I would also assist with pasture management, invasive species control (gorse, two-line spittle bug, fire weed, etc.), erosion/sediment control, as well as brush fire/fuel management.

Construction: I have also held the position of VP/Construction at Waimana Enterprises for their statewide fiber optic network between the five major islands (Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai) that interconnected the various DHHL tracts within our State. This project included regulatory compliance and permitting of both the terrestrial fiber and submarine fiber components of the \$120M project. This effort required Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Division and other governmental permits and incorporated horizontal directional drilling for the seven marine landing sites (Kawaihae, Makena, Lahaina, One Alii Fishpond/Molokai, Sandy Beach, Makaha, Kekaha).

Lanikai Properties: As President/CEO, I am responsible for the 10,000 acres of land that the Lanikai family enterprise owns and manages on Hawaii island. We trace our roots back to 1850 (176 years), when Henry Nicholas Greenwell settled in Hawaii. Most of our land is used for livestock production (Palani Ranch), but we also have income producing projects within the ahupuaa of Honokohau (1 and 2) at West Hawaii Business Park that I take the lead on. In this position, I have regular communication with governmental agencies at the federal (USFWS, NPS), State (DLNR, DOT, DOH, DHHL, University of Hawaii) and County levels (DPW, PLG, DEM, FIN, Mayor). I am also well versed in land dispositions, licenses, leases, revocable permits, easements as well as land title issues. One of my primary tasks is the assistance of the required infrastructure (wastewater system, zoning entitlements) to support the Queen's Health Systems proposed Hospital in North Kona.

Community Service: I am active at the State, County and local level (Waimea). I have served and continue to serve on numerous Boards, Commission and other non-profits in order to give back, contribute to the areas of our community where I work and live. Continuing to serve on the Land Board would be another opportunity to ensure that proper decisions are made, that rely on accurate and sound data, so that the State's natural resources are maintained and continue to be available for future generations.

All of the above considerations would enable me to make sound decisions, in the best interests of the residents of the State of Hawaii and to manage and preserve our land and natural resources.

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

Response: To attend every meeting, show up prepared, listen to testimony from the Staff and members of the public. Render decisions based on the best available data, that would support the residents of the State of Hawaii and protect and preserve its land and natural resources. I do not have any preconceived notions on how I may or may not support any agenda items, until I have that data in front of me, I can ask

the appropriate questions, confer with the Attorney General present at our meetings, to understand the consequences of the decisions we are being asked to make.

5. Do you believe there is anything that would 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 Board of Land and Natural Resources. If so, please explain.

Response: No. Should I have an actual or perceived conflict of interest, I would disclose that concern to the members of the Board, explain whether I feel I could be impartial in my decision making, regarding the matter before us. If the Board decides that there is an actual or perceived conflict, I would recuse myself, leave the room for that matter. FYI, I have declared conflicts in the past, and have followed this process. If approved to serve an additional four years, I would continue this practice.

I believe that my above past experience and lifelong commitment to our State's resources has adequately prepared me to continue to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Should you want to discuss further, I can be reached at (808) 936-7129 or via email at rsmith@lanihau.net.

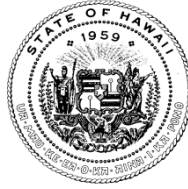
Mahalo for your consideration. Very truly yours,



Riley W. Smith, P.E.

Cc: Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Member
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Member
Senator, Samantha DeCorte, Member

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 15, 2026
1:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 692

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **strong support** of the appointment and confirmation of Riley W. Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Mr. Smith has extensive experience in engineering, land management, and public service. He currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties, where he manages significant land holdings and development projects on Hawai'i Island and regularly works with federal, state, and county agencies on land use and resource management matters.

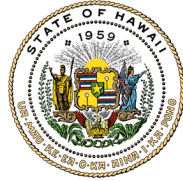
Mr. Smith is a registered professional engineer and former Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works, bringing both technical expertise and practical experience in infrastructure, land stewardship, and regulatory processes. His longstanding involvement in community boards and commissions, combined with his deep knowledge of Hawai'i's lands and resources, make him well-qualified to continue serving on the Board.

For these reasons, we respectfully support the confirmation of Riley W. Smith.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 692
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO BOARD OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RILEY SMITH, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 692 nominating Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports Riley Smith's nomination to the BLNR.

Riley has decades of experience managing land and water from the perspective of an engineer, project and asset manager for both public- and private-led projects. The Department has observed and testified at BLNR meetings where Mr. Smith has asked clarifying questions regarding the submittals and demonstrated an understanding of the issue in discussion.

Respectfully requesting the Committee to consider confirming Riley Smith for another term on the BLNR. Thank you for the opportunity to support his confirmation.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

345 KEKŪANAŌ'A STREET, SUITE 20 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

TELEPHONE (808) 961-8050 • FAX (808) 961-8657

April 13, 2026

TESTIMONY OF KEITH K. OKAMOTO, MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, COUNTY OF HAWAII

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**GM 692 – NOMINATION OF RILEY SMITH TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

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

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Various interactions with Mr. Smith over the course of many years indicate that he is an intelligent and pragmatic person able to make sound decisions based on his ability to gather and process relevant information.

His resume and bio also show his vast experiences in private, public and community service.

Based on the above, I strongly believe Mr. Smith will bring a valuable perspective to this important body. I am confident that he will be a great asset to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and in turn, the State of Hawaii and our communities.

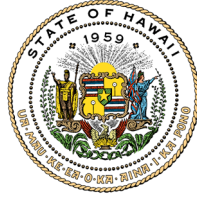
Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

...Water, Our Most Precious Resource...Ka Wai A Kāne...

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

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
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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, April 15, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 692
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RILEY SMITH
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2030**

Governor's Message 692 submits for consideration and confirmation, Riley Smith, to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this nomination.**

Mr. Smith was first nominated to the Board in 2022. He brings extensive experience in land management, business operations, and resource stewardship in Hawai'i. He currently serves as president and chief executive officer of Lanihau Properties, where he oversees the management of lands within Honokōhau, commercial leases in Kailua-Kona, and operations at Palani Ranch on Hawai'i Island. Through his work, Mr. Smith has developed significant experience with land use, natural resources, and the complex issues associated with managing large landholdings in Hawai'i. His professional background includes leadership roles in business management and telecommunications, providing him with a strong understanding of organizational leadership and operational oversight.

Mr. Smith's experience managing lands and working within Hawai'i's regulatory and community landscape has been extremely valuable to the Board in his first term. He has been a strong representative of Hawai'i Island and will continue to serve the island well on the Board. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Riley Smith.

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Council Member District 3



Phone No.: (808) 961-8396
dennis.onishi@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

April 13, 2026

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

Subject: In Support of GM692, nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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

I am writing to express support of GM692, the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

As the current Hawai'i Island representative, Riley Smith has shown a strong commitment to serving our island community. He works hard to ensure that Hawaii Island's needs and perspectives are clearly understood, and he is committed to making well-informed decisions. His dedication to protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources has been evident throughout his service.

Riley Smith's continued service would provide valuable experience and continuity to the Board's ongoing work and to his representation of Hawai'i island.

I respectfully urge the committee to confirm his nomination. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi, Vice Chair



Testimony of
Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
April 15, 2026 at 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM 692 Riley Smith
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the reappointment of Riley W. Smith, P.E., to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Riley Smith brings a rare combination of professional expertise, deep community roots, and genuine aloha to the Board. As a lifelong resident of Hawai'i, on Oahu and Hawai'i Island, he has both a personal and professional stake in the responsible stewardship of our State's natural resources.

His career speaks for itself. As President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, Riley manages approximately 10,000 acres on Hawai'i Island, working daily with federal, state, and county agencies on matters of land use, environmental compliance, and resource management. His prior roles at Parker Ranch and as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawai'i further demonstrate his hands-on understanding of infrastructure, public works, and the complex interplay between land development and environmental responsibility. As a registered professional engineer, he brings technical rigor to the Board where sound, data-driven decision-making is essential.

Beyond his professional qualifications, Riley's record of community service is extraordinary. He has chaired the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council, served on the County Water Board, the Environmental Management Commission, and numerous other bodies dedicated to the public good. He does not simply hold titles, rather, he shows up and does the work.

Perhaps most importantly, Riley understands the Board's kuleana. His lifelong connection to Hawai'i's lands and waters, from ranching to bodysurfing and swimming, reflects someone who is personally invested in preserving these resources for future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to Riley Smith's reappointment and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.



TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT FOR GM692

SENATE COMMITTEE on WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS
Hawai'i State Capitol

April 15, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Room 224

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc. (HKN)¹ is in **STRONG SUPPORT for GM692**, the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, gubernatorial nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

For decades, Mr. Smith has engaged in community solution-based conversations across Hawai'i Island. HKN had the privilege on numerous occasions to collaborate and experience Mr. Smith's leadership, commitment, and loyalty to Hawai'i Island and the entire pae 'āina. Further, he is well versed and experienced with capacity concerns for Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. He is connected to his island community and HKN is confident that Mr. Smith will carry out his duties with professionalism and integrity to Hawai'i's unique culture.

HKN strongly recommends this committee to PASS GM692.

Mahalo Nui,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen
Executive Director | CEO

¹ Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc., <https://kealakekua.org/about-us/>, is a Native Hawaiian-led Community-based Conservation Management non-profit corporation with a "mission - to engage in collaborative stewardship, of Kealakekua Bay's natural and cultural landscape for the benefit of the entire community, including guests and future generations, through active restoration, outreach, and education."



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CEO ■ 1301 Punchbowl Street ■ Honolulu, HI 96813 ■ PH: 808-691-4688

April 12, 2026

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Riley W. Smith to serve on the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Riley's leadership in land management, public service, and infrastructure development across Hawai'i are invaluable. In his current role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties, Riley is responsible for the stewardship of approximately 10,000 acres of land on Hawai'i Island, balancing operations, and conservation. This role requires frequent engagement with federal, state, and county agencies and a sophisticated understanding of land dispositions and other important issues; core responsibilities directly aligned with the work of the board.

Riley's has demonstrated a lifelong connection to Hawai'i and a commitment to public service. As a lifelong resident of our state, he brings a deep personal understanding of Hawai'i's lands and community leadership. He has served on numerous boards and commissions at the state, county, and community levels, including roles related to land, water, and environmental management. This breadth of service reflects both his integrity and his ability to serve impartially in the public interest.

Riley combines technical expertise, executive leadership, and a genuine respect for Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. I am confident that, if confirmed, he will continue to bring thoughtful and balanced decision-making to the Board ensuring that Hawai'i's lands are protected while remaining available and productive for future generations.

I enthusiastically support Riley Smith, P.E. for service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Mahalo,

Jason Chang

President and Chief Executive Officer

The Queen's Health Systems

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:38:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii LECET	Testifying for Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Hawaii LECET strongly supports the confirmation of **Riley William Smith, P.E.**, to serve on the Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

With a professional career spanning over four decades in civil engineering, land management, and public service, Mr. Smith possesses the technical expertise and the balanced perspective necessary to manage Hawaii's precious natural and cultural resources.

Mr. Smith's experience as a current member of BLNR and his professional history since 1980 provide a rigorous technical foundation for the complex infrastructure and land-use decisions the Board must navigate.

Riley Smith has demonstrated an exceptional ability to lead large-scale, complex land and infrastructure projects that respect both community needs and regulatory requirements.

As a graduate of **Kamehameha Schools**, Mr. Smith has a lifelong commitment to the islands and a proven track record of volunteerism. He is already an active and contributing member of the BLNR, having been nominated by Governor Ige and confirmed for a term starting in July 2022.

Riley Smith's unique combination of **technical engineering proficiency, executive land management experience, and selfless community service** makes him an invaluable asset to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He understands the delicate balance between progress and preservation, and his professional integrity is beyond reproach.

We strongly urge the Committee to support his continued service to the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET)



March 11, 2022

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawaii State Legislature

Support for GM692 - Nomination of Riley Smith to Continue on the Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

The Kohala Coast Resort Association is in full support of Governor Josh Green's Nomination of Riley Smith, to continue in the Hawaii Island seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I had the pleasure of serving with Riley on the Real Property Tax Working Group for the County of Hawaii between 2017 and 2018, and appreciate his thoughtful deliberations on sensitive issues that impact our community. Riley and I also serve on the West Hawaii Advisory Board for Hawaiian Telcom. I have been fortunate to watch his leadership in action, through his service on the Waimea Community Association's board of directors.

With his extensive knowledge of land management issues across the island and our state, and his experience in both the public and private sector, we believe he is the right person to continue serving in this important role.

Mahalo for the opportunity to lend our voice to the chorus of voices singing his praises!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director

Craig Anderson, Mauna Kea Resort – President
Charlie Parker, Four Seasons Hualalai – Vice President
Mark Goldrup, Waikoloa Beach Marriott – Secretary
Pete Alles, Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection – Treasurer
Pat Fitzgerald, Hualalai Investors – Board of Directors
Daniel Scott, Rosewood Kona Village – Board of Directors
Samantha Jones, Fairmont Orchid – Board of Directors
Scott Head, Waikoloa Land Company – Board of Directors
Nick Kuhns, Hilton Waikoloa Village – Board of Directors
Rob Gunthner, Hilton Grand Vacations – Board of Directors



COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

GM692
Riley Smith

April 15, 2026, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports GM692** for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Mr. Smith has extensive experience in project management pertaining to a wide variety of land uses, which positions him well to critically examine the topics that come before the board. He has demonstrated the skills needed to make prudent decisions that support the wider community and has served BLNR well in its mission in his current term. He is dedicated to getting as much information he can to understand the situation from all sides. We appreciate the extra work he puts in to reach out to the cattle industry for clarification, education, and input.

In our experience working with Mr. Smith, he has shown dedication to his work, follows through with commitments in a timely fashion, and offers invaluable ideas to move projects toward their ultimate goal. We appreciate his ability to show care for the land and recognize the benefits of well-managed rangelands and the paniolo that manage them.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: April 14, 2026

TO: Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Culture & The Arts

Senator Lorraine Inouye
Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Culture & The Arts

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **GM 692 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 224**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture & The Arts:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Mr. Smith brings decades of experience in land management, infrastructure development, and project oversight in Hawai'i, along with a practical and measured approach to decision-making.

Throughout his career, Mr. Smith has worked on projects involving land entitlement, permitting, and coordination with government agencies, consultants, and contractors. His background as a civil engineer and his leadership roles in managing large-scale landholdings and development projects reflect a strong familiarity with regulatory processes and the operational realities of implementing projects on the ground. These roles required careful attention to detail, adherence to process, and the ability to evaluate competing considerations in a structured and disciplined manner.

Mr. Smith also brings relevant public service experience through his involvement on various boards and commissions, including prior service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His work at both the state and county levels provides him with a practical understanding of how decisions are reviewed, approved, and carried out.

In my personal experience, Mr. Smith has been fair and balanced in his role as a board member, and has carefully considered all viewpoints when deliberating on board matters.

The BLNR is routinely called upon to make decisions involving land use, permitting, and public access. These decisions require sound judgment, respect for process, and an understanding of how policies are implemented in practice. Mr. Smith brings these qualities, along with direct experience in land use matters. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support and confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.



LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

April 15, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

Offering COMMENTS and CONCERNS on GM692: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers the following **COMMENTS and DEEP CONCERNS** regarding GM692, nominating Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

While the Sierra Club appreciates the nominee's willingness to continue his service on the BLNR, the Sierra Club has deep concerns regarding the decisions the nominee has made during his first term, and the resulting conflicts and controversies that may have only frustrated the BLNR's mission in a particularly critical moment for our islands.

These decisions include the nominee's vote to support fundamentally flawed environmental impact statements (EIS) for the Army's retention of lands it has leased from the BLNR for the last six decades – during which time there was little to no accountability for the care of lands entrusted to its control. These EIS lacked necessary biological opinions, cumulative and secondary impact analyses, cultural and archaeological analyses, and an assessment of potential impacts on the vast areas of non-state lands surrounding the leased parcels, among other legal errors many of which had been highlighted by the very staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Nonetheless, the nominee was one of if not the sole BLNR member willing to accept documents that would have not only violated our fundamental environmental review laws, but that failed to provide the BLNR with the vital information it would need to uphold the public trust in the natural and cultural resources its mission is to manage and protect. Ironically, had the EIS documents been "accepted," their flaws would have inevitably led to litigation that would have only further drained the DLNR of resources otherwise needed to uphold its kuleana.

Other decisions made by the nominee were in fact overturned by the courts. These include his votes in favor of the issuance of revocable permits for the diversion of East Maui streams in 2025 and 2026, in conflict with mounting legal precedent regarding these permits; the permit for 2025 has been recently invalidated after-the-fact, and the permit for 2026 has now been amended by the Environmental Court judge in a preliminary ruling based on its likely illegal nature.



These decisions also include his advocacy and vote to allow a resort to exclude the public from the public trust and “ceded” beachfront lands fronting its property – a violation of the public trust doctrine as affirmed by the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Climate destabilization, droughts, development pressures, and other changes have now created unprecedented threats to our natural and cultural resources, and by extension, the foundation of our culture, economy, security, and ways of life. The BLNR’s mission is accordingly more vital now than ever before. BLNR members must therefore be ready to recognize the critical importance of ensuring careful, balanced, and transformative decisionmaking, consistent with the public trust, constitution, and laws of the state, to build a truly resilient and hopeful future for our future generations. The Sierra Club is not confident that the nominee has acknowledged this need, and notes that a number of his decisions have not only appeared contrary to the BLNR’s mandates, but may have also contributed to litigation that has only further drained the DLNR of its limited resources.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 15, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TESTIMONY ON GM 692

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Smith brings extensive experience in land management, infrastructure, and agriculture, particularly through his leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties and his prior work with Parker Ranch. In these roles, he has been directly involved in managing large tracts of land used for livestock production and other agricultural activities, as well as overseeing infrastructure, water systems, and natural resource management.

His background as a professional engineer and his experience in both the public and private sectors, including service as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawai'i, provide him with a strong technical and operational understanding of land use, permitting, and resource management.

Importantly, Mr. Smith has demonstrated a practical, balanced approach to land stewardship that recognizes the importance of maintaining productive agricultural lands while protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. His experience working on issues such as invasive species control, watershed and infrastructure management, and wildfire risk mitigation reflects the real-world challenges facing land managers and agricultural producers across the State.

HFB also appreciates Mr. Smith's willingness to engage with the agricultural community and his understanding of the role that working lands play in supporting local food production, open space, and rural economies.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau believes Mr. Smith will continue to provide a thoughtful and informed perspective on the Board of Land and Natural Resources and respectfully urges his confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 3:42:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STEPHEN ARNETT	Testifying for Hawaii Island Paddlesports Association	Support	In Person

Comments:

I would like to support the nomination of Riley Smith to the DLNR board of directors. Riley is an honest hard working man who has the best interests of his constituents on Hawaii island. Riley is of the highest integrity. He works hard at making sure all of the information provided to DLNR is accurate and appropriate. He really helped our organization navigate the pitfalls in preparing for our meeting before the board.

I want to give my highest recommendation for Riley. I am hopeful that the legislature will approve his nomination to the DLNR board for another term.

Mahalo!

Steve Arnett

Vice President



April 13th, 2026

Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol

Re: Support for GM 692 – Riley W. Smith, Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

On behalf of Parker Ranch, I am writing to offer our strong support for the confirmation of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

In his current role as President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, Riley oversees significant landholdings and operations across Hawai'i Island, balancing commercial activity with responsible stewardship of natural resources. His experience spans infrastructure, water systems, grazing operations, invasive species management, and coordination with federal, state, and county agencies. This breadth of experience positions him well to thoughtfully evaluate the complex matters that come before the Board.

From our perspective as a legacy ranch and large-scale land steward, Riley has been consistently accessible, thoughtful, and understanding of the operational realities and challenges associated with managing working lands in Hawai'i. He takes the time to engage directly, seek input, and develop a well-rounded understanding of issues before him.

Riley brings a balanced and practical approach to decision-making. He recognizes the importance of maintaining productive agricultural lands while also protecting natural resources and serving the broader community. His ability to navigate these considerations is critical to the Board's work.

His technical background as a licensed professional engineer, combined with his executive leadership experience and long-standing commitment to land stewardship, make him well-qualified to continue serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support his confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jacob D. Tavares
Vice President, Business Strategy & Operations
Parker Ranch, Inc.



AKINAKA & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
Consulting Civil Engineers

Testimony of
Robert Y. Akinaka and Ken C. Kawahara

Before the Committee on
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
1:00 P.M.

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Conference Room 224

In consideration of
GM692
APPOINTMENT OF RILEY W. SMITH

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

We respectfully testify in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Riley W. Smith for another term to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Smith has led Lanihau Properties as its President and Chief Executive Officer since 2013 and is responsible for 10,000 acres of land that this family enterprise owns and manages on Hawaii island. In addition, he has worked as the Deputy Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii, Vice President of Land and Asset Management for Parker Ranch and held various other project manager and engineering positions throughout his 46-year career. He is well versed in land dispositions, licenses, leases, revocable permits, easements as well as land title issues. He has also been involved with various land/resource management (invasive species control, erosion/sediment control, brush fire/fuel management).

In addition, Mr. Smith has been involved in numerous community and professional organizations including the Board of Directors for Bishop Holdings Corporation, Chair of the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council for Hawaii Island, Chair of Hawaii County's Liquor Commission, Chair of the Hawaii County's Liquor Adjudication Board, President of the Kailua Village Business Improvement District, Secretary/Treasurer of Na Kupaa O Kuhio, Past President of the Rotary Club of North Hawaii, former chair of the Hawaii County's Environmental Management Commission, the Hawaii County Water Commission, the State of Hawaii's Professional Licensing Board (EASLA).




AKINAKA & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
Consulting Civil Engineers

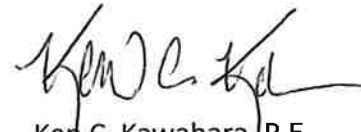
His professional affiliations include the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers and the Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference. As an active community participant, Mr. Smith is a member of the Paniolo Preservation Society, Waimea Outdoor Circle and past resident of the Waimea Community Association.

In 2004, the Big Island Chapter of the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers honored Mr. Smith as their Engineer of the Year.

We are confident that Mr. Smith will continue to make significant contributions to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and strongly support his nomination based on his experience and knowledge of land and resource management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Robert Y. Akinaka, P.E.
Chairman Emeritus


Ken C. Kawahara, P.E.
President



Yamamoto | Hetherington
a limited liability law company

April 13, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water,
Land, Culture and the Arts

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4503
Writer's Email: jyamamoto@yamamotolaw.com

Re: GM692 - Riley Smith – Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

My name is Jodi Yamamoto, and I am an attorney with Yamamoto Hetherington, LLLC, which practices in the areas of energy, telecommunications, finance, real estate, and health care. I have been practicing for 30 years, and for the past 18 years, have focused much of my practice in the energy and telecommunications space. It is with great pleasure that I submit my support for Riley to be reappointed to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources ("Board").

Riley is a lifelong resident of the State of Hawaii and has served on the BLNR since July 2022. Despite the BLNR's often lengthy agenda and complex decision points, it is evident that Riley reviews the voluminous materials prior to each meeting. In other words, he comes prepared to make an informed decision in the best interests of our community. Our clients have appeared before the Board on many occasions, and we always know that Riley will fairly and reasonably consider each matter on its merits.

Riley's background makes him exceptionally well-suited to continue his service on the Board. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Water Resources from the University of Southern California (Cum Laude), as well as a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Hawaii. He has held a Professional Engineer's license in the State of Hawaii since 1980.

Riley is balanced in his views and has both private and public sector experience.

As President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, LLC, Riley oversees the management of 10,000 acres of land on Hawaii Island, with regular engagement across federal, state, and county agencies, including DLNR, USFWS, DOT, DOH, and DHHL. He brings firsthand experience with land dispositions, licenses, leases, revocable permits, easements, and title issues — all squarely within the purview of the Board.

Riley's prior roles have further deepened his expertise in land and resource management. He served as VP of Land and Asset Management at Parker Ranch, where he was responsible for the entitlement and development of all Parker Ranch lands. He also served as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii's Department of Public

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
April 13, 2026
Page 2 of 2

Works, managing over 430 individuals across eight divisions, including wastewater, solid waste, and engineering. His direct experience with natural disasters — including tsunami response, brush fires, flooding, and earthquakes — reflects the practical judgment the Board requires.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Riley has demonstrated a commitment to public service. He has served on numerous boards, commissions, and nonprofits at the state, county, and local level, including as Chairperson of the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council on Hawaii Island, which advises DLNR on trails issues. He also currently serves as a Trustee on the Queen's North Hawaii Community Hospital Board.

As Riley himself has stated, his goal in continuing to serve on the Board is to "ensure that proper decisions are made, that rely on accurate and sound data, so that the State's natural resources are maintained and continue to be available for future generations." I wholeheartedly share that commitment and am confident that Riley will continue to be a valuable, diligent, and principled member of the Board.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers listed above. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Riley and for your consideration of my comments.

Very truly yours,

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

Jodi S. Yamamoto
for
YAMAMOTO HETHERINGTON
A Limited Liability Law Company



Yamamoto | Hetherington
a limited liability law company

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4501
Writer's Email: dyamamoto@yamamotolaw.com

Re: GM 692 – Riley W. Smith, Nominee to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in **strong support** of **GM 692**, the confirmation of **Riley W. Smith, P.E.** to the **Board of Land and Natural Resources**. I am an attorney in private practice, and my work regularly involves land use, infrastructure, energy, water, and natural resource matters in Hawai'i. Based on my familiarity with the issues that come before the Board and with Mr. Smith's professional background, I believe he is exceptionally well qualified to continue serving in this critical role.

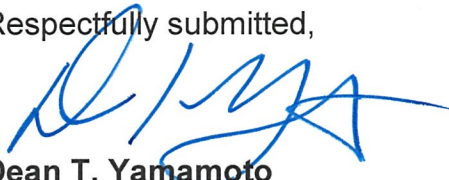
Mr. Smith brings decades of senior-level experience in land stewardship, infrastructure development, and public administration in Hawai'i. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties, LLC, and in prior leadership roles with Parker Ranch, Waimana Enterprises, and the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works, he has been directly responsible for managing large and complex landholdings, overseeing major infrastructure and utility systems, and navigating environmental review, permitting, and inter-agency coordination. His training as a licensed professional civil engineer, combined with an MBA and extensive hands-on experience across both the public and private sectors, provides him with the technical expertise, practical judgment, and institutional understanding necessary for effective service on the Land Board.

Equally important, Mr. Smith has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to public service and to Hawai'i's communities. He has served on numerous state and county boards and commissions, including prior service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and has been deeply engaged in civic, environmental, and community organizations on Hawai'i Island. He is widely respected for his integrity, diligence, and balanced, data-driven approach to decision-making. For these reasons, I strongly urge

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice
Chair
April 13, 2026
Page 2 of 2

the Committee to recommend confirmation of Mr. Smith's nomination under GM 692. I am confident he will continue to serve the State of Hawai'i with fairness, independence, and a deep commitment to the responsible management of our natural resources for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean T. Yamamoto
for
YAMAMOTO HETHERINGTON
A Limited Liability Law Company



April 13, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via email: senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov and the Legislature's website

**RE: Letter of Support, Riley Smith, GM692
Governor's Nomination/Re-Appointment to the
Board of Land and Natural Resources**

I have known Riley Smith for over thirty years. We originally worked together on the PUC application for the wastewater system, to serve the North Hawaii Community Hospital in Waimea, South Kohala. Our paths also crossed when we were both involved with Bishop Holding Corporation. More recently, I have been serving on the Board of Managers of Lanihau Properties LLC (Lanihau), in North Kona, Hawaii and work with Riley on a regular basis in his role as President/CEO.

I support Riley's nomination to this Board for the following reasons:

- a. **Background:** He is highly qualified to engage in detailed discussions on land use and natural resources within State lands. His background as a licensed professional engineer, a planner, the Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii, as well as Vice President, Properties Division for Parker Ranch, and currently the President/CEO of Lanihau, has given him the hands-on experience to make prudent decisions regarding land management and sustainability of our natural resources.

- b. **Real Estate Management:** Riley is currently responsible for the operations of the Lanihau's lands in North Kona. This includes master planning, entitlements, infrastructure, construction and disposition of these improved lands. This is one of the key components of DLNR's Land Division.
- c. **Collaboration:** Riley is a "team player". He understands how to work with Division Administrators, their staff, as well as the other six BLNR members, to make mutually agreeable decisions that are in the best interests of the State of Hawaii and its residents.
- d. **Familiarity with our State:** Riley originally resided on Oahu for 40 years, has spent the last 30 years on Hawaii island. Due to his land planning work at PBR Hawaii, as well as his fiber optic work with Sandwich Isles Communications, he is also familiar with the islands of Kauai, as well as Maui County.

For the above reasons, I wholeheartedly support Riley's nomination to serve a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mahalo for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Eric K. Yeaman
Managing Partner



Re: GM692 Confirmation of Riley Smith to BLNR for a term to expire 06-30-2030

Dear Legislators:

I write today in **strong support of GM 692, Riley Smith's nomination to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on 06-30-2030.** Riley Smith is an experienced member of the BLNR, having already served one term in that role during some of the more contentious issues to have come before the BLNR. During his tenure at BLNR, Riley has consistently been well prepared and informed of the issues to make clear and concise decisions for the betterment of Hawaii. His pragmatic approach, extensive professional resume, as well being a longstanding volunteer on many boards and commissions, affirms his role as a community leader, making him the ideal candidate for another term on BLNR where he will undoubtedly make decisions based on facts rather than emotion. Riley's professional experience working with agricultural producers, land developers, engineering and planning firms, and a wide range of other stakeholders gives him the experience to see contentious issues from many different angles and ensure that BLNR decisions are based on all available information and outcome scenarios. It's this unique experience base and his pragmatic decision making that make him the ideal candidate for a seat on BLNR.

Mahalo Piha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Judd".

Zachary Judd

VP Regional Planning and Long-term Strategy

Parker Ranch, Inc.



April 12, 2026

RE: GM 692 - Gubernatorial Nominee Riley Smith for the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts,

Since 1968, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce has advanced the quality of life for our community by supporting a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. Representing more than 460 member businesses and organizations, we serve as the leading voice for the West Hawai'i business community, advocating for policies that promote long-term stability, economic resilience, and responsible stewardship of our island's natural resources.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports** the confirmation of nominee **Riley Smith** to the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

As Hawai'i Island's BLNR member for the past four years, Mr. Smith has continually demonstrated thoughtful judgment, respect for diverse perspectives, and adherence to informed decision-making. He brings extensive professional experience in land management, engineering, and public works, providing a practical understanding of the complex considerations involved in resource stewardship.

Additionally, Mr. Smith's longstanding record of public service spans several decades, reflecting a strong sense of responsibility for the well-being of Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawai'i. He has also served on the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where his commitment to the community was clearly evident. We are confident that Mr. Smith will continue to serve Hawai'i well, now and for future generations.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce respectfully asks you to approve the nomination of Riley Smith to the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy J. Laros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:19:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Testifying for Waiakea Crown Land Heirs	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I oppose GM692 - and nomination of Riley Smith to the BLNR. We are in a crucial time in our Hawai'i in which we need to prioritize the needs of our people. There should be more opportunities with the Kānaka whose land are held in Trust as we should be a part of the selection process to provide recommendations for consideration. We the Kānaka should be proactively participating as these candidates will be making decisions involving our Crown Lands and we should be sufficiently be consulted with before a contested case hearing is initiated.

We are the true title holders of this land, the royal patent we hold in Trust until what is ours is rightfully restored. This was the agreement Queen Lili'uokalani explicitly stated in 1893 when military force incarcerated our Queen in her own Palace, Our Palace. Let us not forget that because of this agreement We are the rightly stewards of this 'āina. All that belongs to us is held in Trust. With This responsibility or Kuleana, decisions should be carried with care, passion wisdom and mindfulness. These candidates will be managing our Wahipana our Home, our resources we refer to as Nā Akua.!

Mahalo,

Kanoe

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:14:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley has decades of experience in Hawaii land stewardship. He would be an excellent choice for DLNR.



HAWAIIAN CEMENT

A subsidiary of Knife River Corporation

April 13, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hi 96813
RE: Letter of Support, Riley E. Smith, BLNR, GM692

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the reappointment of Riley Smith to continue serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing Hawai'i Island.

I have had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Smith over the years, and I believe his experience, local knowledge, and education are exceptionally well suited to the responsibilities of the Land Board. As a lifelong resident of Hawai'i and long-time Hawai'i Island resident, he brings a deep understanding of our natural resources and the long-term implications of land and water management decisions.

Mr. Smith's background in public works, infrastructure, construction, and land and resource management is especially relevant to the work of the Board. He understands firsthand the importance of responsible resource management, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure planning, as well as the need for thoughtful coordination among state, county, and federal agencies.

Equally important is Mr. Smith's commitment to community service and public trust. His continued service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources would provide valuable continuity and institutional knowledge at a time when informed and steady leadership is essential to safeguarding Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for future generations.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the reappointment of Riley W. Smith, P.E., and respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Respectfully,

David Gomes
President



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

LATE

In Support of Governor's Message 692

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire June 30, 2030

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

My name is Micah Kāne, and I serve as President and CEO of Parker Ranch, Inc. in Waimea, Hawai'i. I am pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of GM 692, confirming Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land & Natural Resources (BLNR).

As Parker Ranch approaches its 180th year of ranching on Hawai'i Island — managing over 130,000 acres of pasture, forestry, and working waterways — we understand the responsibility and challenges of effective land stewardship.

Riley's breadth of experience in land and project management, civil engineering and community leadership makes him an excellent candidate for the Board's mission to ensure the proper management and long-term health of Hawaii's natural resources.

Throughout his tenure, Riley has approached the complex issues before the Board with integrity, patience, and a genuine commitment to finding workable solutions. Further, as a Native Hawaiian, he understands that effective natural resource management must be rooted in respecting Hawaii's culture and traditions.

We appreciate Mr. Smith's continued dedication to serve and humbly support his confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Micah Kane President and CEO
Parker Ranch, Inc.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 7:10:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for Big Island Reef Keepers hui	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Mr. Riley Smith's nomination for a second term.

A developer and land manager from Hawai'i Island, he has made controversial decisions that demonstrate his lack of fidelity or understanding of the public interest and the public trust. These include, urging his fellow Board members to "accept" a highly flawed environmental impact statement submitted by the US Army for its "retention" of "ceded" (i.e. stolen) Hawaiian and public land trust lands at Pōhakuloa and on O'ahu. He also led the BLNR's decision making to approve at a public hearing, proposed rules to reopen West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection, including arbitrary numbers he selected for limits on the mass extraction of Yellow Tang. Mr. Smith also voted in favor of the privatization of public beach areas fronting the Kahala resort despite repeated concerns raised regarding the public trust, and in favor of the issuance of unfair and unjustified East maui stream diversion permits that have been repeatedly shot down by the courts.

Please deny the confirmation of his nomination.

Sincerely,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

Member,

Big Island Reef Keepers hui

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 6:09:41 PM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Bright	Testifying for Hawai'i Big Game Fishing Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

the Hawai'i Big Game Fishing Club supports the nomination of Riley Smith enthusiastically!

Riley puts in super long hours for the Big Island Community and has been the best BLNR board member in our recall.

Riley has proven his dedication to BLNR as Hawai'i County rep and we look forward to working with him in the future!

C. J. "Jody" Bright Jr

Governmental Relations Committee

Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club

Established 1914

jbright@hbgfc.org

808.557.0908

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:02:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due respect, but nominee has taken polarizing positions that supported military excesses and ignored Hawaii's environment in supporting Army's EIS on Pohakaloa and aquarium fishing.

LATE



Written Statement of

**Su Shin,
President, Hawaiian Telcom**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

April 15, 2026, 1 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR:

**G.M. 692 – CONFIRMATION OF RILEY SMITH TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2030**

To: Chair Lee, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee

Re: **Testimony providing support for GM 692**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of GM 692, the nomination of Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).**

I have known Riley for many years and have interacted with him in professional and community settings, including through periodic engagement associated with Hawaiian Telcom’s West Hawai‘i Community Advisory Group. In my experience, Riley is thoughtful, well-prepared, and guided by a strong sense of integrity. He listens carefully, asks practical questions, and approaches complex issues with fairness and respect for differing viewpoints.

Riley understands the seriousness of public service and the long-term responsibility that comes with stewardship of Hawai‘i’s land and natural resources. He brings sound judgment, humility, and a clear appreciation for the broader community impact of these decisions.

Based on my long experience of knowing and working with him, I respectfully urge your committee to recommend Riley Smith’s confirmation to the BLNR.

Mahalo for your consideration.

April 14, 2026

LATE

State Senate- Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair and Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Reference: **GM692- Riley Smith- Board of Land and Natural Resources**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Room 224 at 1:00 pm

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members;

I submit this testimony in strong support of GM692 and the reappointment of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Having served for an initial four-year term, I can think of very few people who possess not only the professional capacity and credentials, but a record of consistent commitment to serving the community and the culture of Hawai`i.

BLNR is charged with the management and protection of the state's natural resources, which involve the weighing and making of consequential decisions that impact these resources, including approximately 1.3 million acres of public lands, coastal areas, water resources, forests, and wildlife.

As a senior executive of several of Hawai`i's largest land-owners, Riley has spent a career focused on land and water resource management in the private sector, and the mindful stewardship of those resources.

Coupled with his sincere and genuine care for cultural preservation as a Native Hawaiian with extensive land management expertise as well as engineering and water resource background with a long history of community service and local knowledge, I firmly believe Riley is uniquely suited to be mindful of and impart the sensitive balance this kuleana demands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of GM692.

Mālama Pono;

Kika G. Bukoski

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 5:45:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators, its has been a please working alongside member Riley Smith on the BLNR. His knowledge and expertise in the issues on Hawaii Island has given us a lot of insight in our decision making.

Mahalo.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 7:54:53 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Lee.....I support the re-appointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley W. Smith

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 11:01:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
keone downing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in full SUPPORT of Riley for a second term at BLNR. As a former board member I believe Riley is of great value on this board. He brings level headed educated views. Mahalo, Keone Downing

Testimony of Carl Carlson

Before the Committee on Water and Land

April 11, 2026

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Conference Room 229

In consideration of **GM 692**
Nomination of Riley W. Smith

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Honorable Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I am respectfully submitting testimony in strong support for the reappointment of Riley W. Smith to serve as a Member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Mr. Smith for nearly 40 years and have watched his career growth and progress. His accomplishments over the years are substantial both professionally and personally. It has been a pleasure to witness the breadth of his knowledge and commitment to public service in our community and State.

Mr. Smith has many strengths. Among them is the fact that he is collaborative in nature and is a fair and matter of fact decision maker. He is one who does his homework and always prepares by reading circulated meeting materials and becoming knowledgeable in that content. In addition to being an active Professional Engineer, he has held positions in a broad range of private businesses where he has exhibited his unique ability to manage a very diverse portfolio of assets and challenges. He has been able to do this with grace and balance.

As a very busy professional, he has also made a commitment to our community where he has served on various Boards and Commissions as well as with community groups and committees. His resume speaks to the breadth of his participation, career and accomplishments.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I provide strong support for the nomination of Riley W. Smith to serve a second term on the BLNR and would urge the Committee to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Carl A. Carlson, Jr.
72-4857 Ho'omalie Place
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 12:17:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my strong support for the nomination/re-appointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. As an environmental scientist, officer of various non-profits, and member of three State Boards/Commissions over the last forty years, I am very familiar with the excellent work done by Riley in his roles at the Hawai`i County Department of Public Works, at Parker Ranch and Lanihau Ranch, and as a BLNR Board member. As a professional and volunteer I have represented primarily agencies and non-profits at BLNR hearings and have seen first-hand the difficult work of serving on the BLNR. I can attest that Riley is one of the most diligent, thoughtful and courageous members in Board history. His presence has been a blessing to the State of Hawai`i as it grapples with complex issues, to applicants before the Board as they seek to have their matters fairly heard, and especially to the citizens of the State of Hawai`i who hope for wise and fair decisions from what may be the most important Board or Commission in our State. Please confirm Riley Smith so that he may continue his extraordinary service to our State.

Ron Terry, Hilo

hiloronterry@gmail.com

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 1:06:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce K. Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My relationship with Riley has been mainly on a professional level for the past 30+ years. I know him to be exceptional in his communication skills, thoroughness, positivity, responsiveness, and reasonableness. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is good with people. Being that this is his second nomination by Governor Green, in my mind it means Riley is doing a good job now.

I support Riley's confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a second term.

Mahalo,

Bruce K. Meyers

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 1:22:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Bisel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Riley Smith so that he may continue his important service to our State.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 2:21:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 2:54:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my written testimony and support for the Reappointment of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Riley for over 20 years here in Waimea, Hawaii Island and know he is a committed, hard working and experienced professional that would continue to provide knowledgeable guidance and decisions within the Board. Riley has always been unselfishly willing to provide his time and knowledgeable experience, at no reimbursement, to our community for the benefit and betterment of all. Hawaii Nei will only continue to benefit with Riley's reappointment to the Board.

Respectfully submitted, Tim McCullough

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 9:43:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Canto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 7:57:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

remonstrated have known Riley Smith both personally and professionally for many decades. I have watched his career closely with respect and admiration. Riley's depth of experience and love for Hawai'i's lands and people are deeply rooted in who he is and how he conducts himself. He has clearly and continuously demonstrated that he has the head for analysis and the heart for service and the greater good.

I am proud to give Riley Smith my highest recommendation and level of support to continue to serve as Board member for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Moss

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 8:35:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cates	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts,

I am in full support of the reappointment of Riley Smith to the Land Board, I have testified at the Land Board over the past 35 years and many times while Riley has been a board member, I have found him to be attentive and clearly takes the time on all of the issues prior to each meeting. I have found Riley to be a fair person even when I dont agree on a issue. We need Board Members who can listen and make a fair judgment on issues facing the Board.

Sincerely,

Randy Cates

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 12:01:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Nakaoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for allowing me to write in support of Riley Smith for a 2nd term on the Board of Land & Natural Resources. Riley brings unquestioned experience and technical expertise to support the important tasks of the Board.

Aloha,

Bruce Nakaoka

Endowment/Interim CIO

The Queen's Health Systems

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 1:13:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Matsuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and the Committee on Water, Land, Cultural and the Arts -

From my experience knowing and working with Riley Smith, he has a depth of experience in resource management, dedicates himself to community service, makes the effort to understand differing perspectives on issues, is accessible, listens for mutual understanding, and stands for what he believes is best for the state. I support his confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mahalo.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 1:18:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George I Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts Committee

Hawaii Senate

Re: appointment of Riley Smith for a second term

To the Hawaii Senate and the Committee for Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

I am writing to support the appointment of Mr. Riley Smith for a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. My name is George Iseo Matsumoto and I am a resident of the State of California but have interacted with the Board of Land and Natural Resources several times over the past 5 years as a petitioner for a Special Activities Permit for the SCUBA collection of gelatinous plankton 3-5 miles offshore the Kona Coast where the ocean bottom is 1-2 miles deep. I have been very impressed with the discussions and actions of the Board as they are clearly have the best interests of the Hawaiian peoples and the State. I have found Mr. Riley Smith to be a strong advocate for the Hawaiian people and the State and a person who not only listens but provides constructive comments and suggestions all designed to ensure that the Land and Natural Resources of Hawaii remain intact and secure for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Mr Riley Smith's nomination

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 1:30:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kokua and support Riley Smith's reappointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

Ross Wilson Jr.

Kailua-Kona

808-937-3678

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 2:32:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Garson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Katherine Garson. I am currently a partner with Carlsmith Ball LLP and am the Administrative Partner of the Hilo Office. I am providing this testimony in my personal capacity. I previously was a Deputy Corporation Counsel and Assistant Corporation Counsel with the County of Hawaii Office of the Corporation Counsel. It was during my tenure with the County of Hawaii that I first got to know Riley Smith, as I provided legal advice to the Water Board which Riley served on and chaired. I am in strong support of Riley's appointment to the BLNR.

Riley has always demonstrated that he is an intelligent, logical, trustworthy, unbiased, and respectful person. Because of his prior employment and volunteer service on the many boards and commissions on which he has sat, he has a deep understanding of Hawaii law, including water and environmental laws. I have known him to be fair and unbiased in his application of the law to any given situation. Riley also brings common sense and a desire to solve problems which face our communities to any of the positions he occupies, and I am sure he will do the same on the BLNR.

I wholeheartedly support Riley Smith for appointment to the BLNR.

/s/ Katherine Garson

Joseph Moran
68-1084 Pauoa Way
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

April 12, 2026

Office of the Governor
The Honorable Josh Green
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor,

It has been my pleasure to have known Riley Smith for over 50 years. I have followed his career from his first engineering job at Kaiser in Oahu, to becoming Deputy Chief Engineer for the state of Hawaii before transitioning to Parker Ranch, and onto his current role as CEO of Lanihau Properties LLC. Riley has always kept the best interest of the company he represented as his number one priority. On a personal level, whenever I ask him for advice for my own company and projects, he is a wealth of information and expertise. His dedication to his employers, employees, friends and the needs of the Hawaiian people has never wavered. I have personally seen the vast improvements and positive impact that Riley has brought to DLNR during his last four years serving on the board. It is with my greatest confidence and hope that Riley will be renominated to the board so he can continue to make a significant impact on safe guarding Hawaii's precious natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Joseph Moran

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 4:34:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Kuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Re: Testimony in Support of Riley W. Smith (GM 692) – Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Riley W. Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I know Riley both professionally and through our shared connections in Hawai‘i’s land, development, and stewardship community. He brings a rare combination of technical expertise, real-world land management experience, and a deep understanding of how decisions made at the Board level impact communities on the ground.

Riley is a licensed civil engineer and has spent decades working at the intersection of infrastructure, land use, and natural resource management. As President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, he is responsible for managing thousands of acres of land across Hawai‘i and coordinating with federal, state, and county agencies on complex projects involving water systems, environmental compliance, and long-term land planning . This is exactly the kind of practical, hands-on experience that is critical for informed decision-making at BLNR.

Equally important, Riley understands Hawai‘i. He was raised here, has spent his career here, and has been actively involved in public service at multiple levels—including prior service on the Land Board since 2022 . His background includes work with public works, large-scale infrastructure, ranch land management, and regulatory processes. That breadth matters. The issues before BLNR are rarely simple, and Riley has demonstrated the ability to evaluate them from multiple angles—technical, environmental, and community impact.

From my perspective, what sets Riley apart is his balanced approach. He respects the importance of protecting our natural resources while also understanding the realities of infrastructure, housing, and economic use of land. That balance is critical for Hawai‘i right now.

He shows up prepared, does the work, and engages thoughtfully. In a role that requires weighing competing interests and making difficult decisions, those qualities matter more than anything.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Keanu Kuna
Kailua, Hawai'i

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 5:06:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Mr. Riley Smith's nomination to a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Mr. Smith's professional training, extensive experience, his former tenure on the BLNR and his love for the Aina, all continue to make him highly qualified to continue serving on this Board. Please recommend Mr. Smith for confirmation by the full Hawaii State Senate.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 7:47:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephany Vaioleti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of the reappointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Smith brings a rare combination of lifelong Hawai'i residency, deep respect for our natural and cultural resources, and decades of practical experience in public works, land management, and infrastructure development.

His background as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawai'i, combined with his leadership overseeing large landholdings and complex regulatory processes, gives him a clear, balanced understanding of how sound environmental stewardship and responsible development can coexist. Just as important, Mr. Smith's lifelong connection to Hawai'i's ocean, land, and communities grounds his decision-making in long-term sustainability for future generations. Mr. Smith's integrity, professionalism, and commitment to data-driven, thoughtful governance make him an asset to the Board and to the State of Hawai'i. I respectfully urge your support of his reappointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Michael J. Chun, PhD

April 12, 2026

Honorable Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Honorable Senator Lee,

In March, 2022, I endorsed the initial appointment of Mr. Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the State of Hawai'i. Four years later, I once again submit my strong endorsement of Riley for reappointment.

In my endorsement of Riley's appointment four years ago, I pointed to three key compelling attributes that would serve the Board well:

- Relevant experience as a registered professional engineer
- Rigor in thinking critically and objectively
- Relationship to the 'aina as a keiki o ka aina

Four years of service on the Board of DLNR have reaffirmed my insights to Riley's value as a Board Member. Riley has been thoughtful in his analysis, steady in his decision-making and balanced in his inclusivity. He has honored the fundamental requirements of a Board Member — to maintain a duty of care, duty of obedience and duty of loyalty in representing the interests of our island home. Riley continues to meet the high standards of the Board of Land and Natural Resources through competence, character and "chemistry" that are undisputed and unquestioned.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to support the renomination of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His reappointment will prove invaluable to the best interests of the citizens of Hawai'i.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Michael J. Chun, PhD

Zendo Kern
Hawai'i Island

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 692 - Letter in Support of Riley Smith for the Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I have had the honor of knowing Riley Smith for many years and previously supported his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources while serving as Planning Director for Hawai'i County. At that time, I believed he would serve the board and the public well, and he has proven that to be true.

Riley has performed very effectively as a board member. He consistently shows up prepared, engaged, and thoughtful in his service. He brings an understanding that is grounded in the needs and realities of the island he represents, while also maintaining the broader perspective necessary to serve the interests of the state as a whole. That balance is important on a statewide board such as BLNR, and Riley brings it well.

He is a valuable resource to both our community and the board, and I strongly support his continued service for another term.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zendo Kern

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:22:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:23:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Chadwick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ian Chadwick and I serve as an Assistant Fire Chief for the Hawai'i Fire Department. I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of **Riley W. Smith, P.E.**, to continue serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (GM 692). Mr. Smith has demonstrated a deep commitment to responsible stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources, informed by decades of professional experience and a lifetime of service to our communities.

Mr. Smith's background is uniquely suited to the responsibilities of the Board. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties, he oversees the management of more than 10,000 acres on Hawai'i Island, working regularly with federal, state, and county agencies on land use, infrastructure, conservation, and resource management. His career includes leadership roles at Parker Ranch, Waimana Enterprises, and the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works, where he served as Deputy Chief Engineer. These roles have given him extensive experience in land planning, environmental compliance, infrastructure development, and emergency response.

Riley has already demonstrated his ability to serve effectively on the Board since 2022. His continued service would provide valuable continuity, institutional knowledge, and a steady, informed voice on complex land and resource issues. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm **Riley W. Smith** for a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian Chadwick

Assistant Fire Chief

Hawai'i Fire Department

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:32:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keli'i Kiakona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supporting the confirmation of Riley Smith to serve above term for BLNR.

I have know Riley for the better half of the last decade and have come to know his character and mana'o. I feel he is a great representative of not only his Island, but also for the people of Hawai'i on the issues faced with the BLNR. Riley will continue to take input and vote for what he feels is in the best intrest of all of Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Keli'i Kiakona

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:23:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LORRAINE "Lani" OLSEN-CHONG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked with Riley Smith as a volunteer in our community for over 25 years. He is trustworthy and will always do and support what's best not only our community but for our island. I totally support Riley Smith as a Gubernatorial candidate for Board of Land and Natural Resources.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:23:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am pleased to hear that Mr. Riley Smith has been nominated by Gov. Green to serve on the DLNR's Board of Land and Natural Resources for an additional term.

I have known Mr. Smith for over 15 years and he has always been one to get the job done. I have served on a couple of boards with him, and his knowledge and understanding of subjects in the boardroom shows that he has done his homework long before the meeting.

I fully support Riley Smith's nomination for a second term on the BLNR.

David Greenwell
PO Box 1964
Kamuela, HI 96743
808-960-3035 cell
808-885-8038 home
tgreenwell@hawaii.rr.com

692 GM

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Submitted by: Sarah Gilman Sur

April 13, 2026

I am in support of the Gubernatorial Nominee, Riley Smith, to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. In his current tenure on the Land Board, Mr. Smith has demonstrated excellent leadership. He approaches issues and concerns with great focus and thought; he remains objective in his decision-making; and takes into consideration the scientific evidence, particularly when considering matters of fisheries management. Mr. Smith has demonstrated resistance to special interest groups who solicit and come before the Land Board. He is

His education and background, as well as service to his Hawai'i Island community, qualify him to continue serving on the Land Board.

I whole-heartedly support the Governor's nomination of Mr. Riley Smith for a consecutive term on Land Board expiring June 30, 2030.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 1:28:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendon Kalei'aina Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and members of the WTL committee,

I am testifieing in SUPPORT of the Governor's nomination of Riley Smith the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley has spent a lifetime in the stewardship of our 'aina and given his many years of service and work with various ranches on Moku 'o Keawe and his continued work on other various boards and orginizations I believe Riley will continue 'auamo his kuleana to our 'aina on behalf all kanaka and citizens of the State of Hawaii.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 5:58:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I oppose the confirmation of Riley Smith based on concerns with his record and adherence to Hawai‘i’s public trust obligations.

- Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai‘i Constitution requires the State to actively protect natural and cultural resources. BLNR members must apply this duty with rigor.
- In *Waiāhole*, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court made clear that protection of public trust resources must take priority over competing uses. Mr. Smith’s support for East Maui stream diversions raises concerns about whether he follows this standard.
- A majority of the Board rejected the U.S. Army’s Environmental Impact Statement for Pōhakuloa due to deficiencies. Mr. Smith supported acceptance despite those flaws, reflecting deference rather than independent scrutiny under Chapter 343.
- *Ka Pa ‘akai* requires protection of Native Hawaiian practices prior to approval of impacted uses. His support for reopening aquarium collection raises questions about compliance with that duty.
- His vote affecting shoreline access at Kahala implicates core public trust protections.
- His role as head of a major landholding company heightens conflict concerns, yet his record does not demonstrate clear separation from those interests.

The BLNR’s duty is to uphold the public trust at the highest level. Mr. Smith’s record raises sufficient concern to warrant denial of this nomination.

Mahalo,

Dee Green

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 6:18:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support Riley Smith as Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 6:47:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony **in opposition** to the confirmation of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The BLNR is not a policy-making body that may simply balance competing interests at its discretion. It is a trustee of the public trust under Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai‘i Constitution, with an affirmative duty to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources, including ceded lands. The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has made clear in cases such as *In re Water Use Permit Applications (Waiāhole Ditch)*, *Ka Pa ‘akai O Ka ‘Āina v. Land Use Commission*, and *Mauna Kea Anaina Hou v. BLNR* that this duty requires a high level of scrutiny, independent judgment, and a commitment to protecting trust resources over competing uses.

Mr. Smith’s record on the Board raises **serious concerns** about whether he has met, or will meet, that standard.

During the Board’s consideration of the U.S. Army’s Environmental Impact Statement for the retention of lands at Pōhakuoa Training Area, Mr. Smith took a position in favor of the Army despite significant, well-documented deficiencies in the EIS. These deficiencies were substantial enough that a majority of the Board declined to accept the document. Mr. Smith nevertheless supported acceptance, relying in part on assertions of the Army’s “good faith” rather than whether the EIS satisfied the legal requirements of Chapter 343, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. Under *Waiāhole*, the Board’s duty is not to defer to applicants, but to independently ensure that the use of trust resources meets constitutional and statutory standards. His position in that matter reflects a troubling willingness to subordinate those duties.

Mr. Smith has also supported decisions affecting shoreline access, water resources, and marine ecosystems that raise similar concerns. His vote supporting the effective privatization of public beach access areas fronting the Kahala resort implicates the State’s obligations under Article XI and long-standing public trust principles protecting shoreline access. His support for East Maui stream diversion permits—matters that have repeatedly been contested and rejected in court—runs counter to the standards articulated in *Waiāhole*, which require the protection of instream values and Native Hawaiian rights as a priority. In addition, his role in advancing rules to reopen West Hawai‘i to commercial aquarium collection raises concerns under *Ka Pa ‘akai*, which

requires the State to identify and protect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices before approving actions that may impact them.

At the time of his original nomination, concerns were raised about the inherent conflict between Mr. Smith's professional role as a land developer and property manager and the BLNR's duty to conserve and protect public trust resources. He currently serves as President and CEO of Lanikai Properties, with responsibility over extensive landholdings. That background does not disqualify him, but it heightens the need for a demonstrated record of independence and strict adherence to public trust principles. His record on the Board has not provided that assurance.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized that the public trust is a duty of the "highest order." It requires more than procedural compliance; it requires a demonstrated commitment to protecting resources for present and future generations. Based on his actions and decisions, there is substantial reason to question whether Mr. Smith consistently applies that level of rigor.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **reject this nomination.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Chris Lee
Chair
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Vice Chair
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support of Mr. Riley Smith, DLNR Land Board Member, Hawaii Island

Aloha Kakou Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye:

I write in strong support of Mr. Riley Smith to be reappointed to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Mr. Smith since 1988, when we served on the Board of Directors of the Hawaiian Business Professional Association, the predecessor to the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. Since then, I have seen Riley excel as a professional engineer, businessman, environmentalist, and engaged community member. I know Riley to be a solutions-oriented professional who gathers facts, listens, and considers cultural sensitivities before arriving at conclusions. During his first term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), Riley demonstrated the qualities I seek in decision-makers by asking the right questions and voting fairly.

Riley's resume, accomplishments, and experiences in the public and private sectors stand on their own. I strongly support the re-appointment of Mr. Smith to serve as a Member of the BLNR. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

David K. Chun

David K. Chun

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RILEY W. SMITH TO THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF HAWAII**

April 14, 2026

My name is Mel Kaneshige, and I am writing to support the reappointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Smith since 2013 when I joined the Board of Directors of Lanihau Properties, LLC where Mr. Smith then served and continues to serve as President and CEO. Lanihau Properties is owned by the Greenwell family in Kona and has about 10,000 acres under its charge. Mr. Smith is responsible for the diversified business of Lanihau, consisting primarily of real estate development, land management, and cattle ranching.

Mr. Smith has served as a BLNR member since 2022 and has been an exemplary board member during his term, attending as many meetings as possible given his schedule running Lanihau Properties and his Big Island residence. As such, he has represented the Big Island well.

His resume contains his many educational and professional achievements and as well as his numerous community activities. Based on this as well as his current position as a board member, he is well qualified to examine and vote on the myriad requests that come before the Board.

It is on this basis that I write to support his reappointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii.

Aloha,



Mel Kaneshige

4615 Aukai Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96816

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:14:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Shontell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WLA Committee Members:

I have known Riley Smith for 25 years. He is a highly intelligent, pragmatic, hard working and thoughtful man, proud of his Hawaiian heritage, and greatly concerned with the future of our State and its people. A man of his **CHARACTER, LOCAL UPBRINGING, and PROFESSIONAL SKILLS** is exactly what is needed for the management of Hawaii's natural resources for the benefit of **ALL** our people. I humbly ask that you please **SUPPORT** his re-appointment to the BLNR.

Mahalo,

Bill Shontell

(Hawi, North Kohala)

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:14:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley has decades of experience in Hawaii land stewardship. He would be an excellent choice for DLNR.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 6:24:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai! My testimony is in favor of Riley Smith to be selected for another term at BLNR. Riley is an outstanding community leader and with his experience, he is the ideal candidate. Mahalo for your consideration.
Aloha nō!

Joe Souza

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 6:56:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DANIEL P HILL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Daniel P Hill a permant resident of Kona Hi whole heartedly and without any reservations support Riley Smith for the WLA commitee nonmination. I have know Mr Smith for many years and his dedication to his home land and home Island of Hawaii is unmatched. He has done so much good for us without asking or recieving any accolades, his work ethic and honestly speak for themselves!! He has my VOTE!!!!

Sincerely

Daniel P Hill

Resident and Small Business Owner Kona Hawaii

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 7:57:41 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makai Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, and Vice Chair Inouye,

I am writing to express my strong support for Riley Smiths appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I can speak first had and attest to his integrity and leadership skills. Riley also has the courage to make tough decisions, and stand by them. On a personal note, I have leaned on Riley for years. Constantly seeking his mana'o and guidance when it comes to land use and fishing management. His passion to serve our Hawaii Island communities will continue to make him an asset on the Land Board. For these reasons I humbly ask for your support of Riley's reappointment.

Sincerely,

Makai Freitas

Date: April 14, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FROM: JAMES M. LEONARD

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF RILEY W. SMITH
TO SERVE A SECOND TERM ON THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

REFERENCE: GM692 and State Senate WLCA Committee Hearing of April 15, 2026

Dear Chairperson Lee and Committee Members;

I am writing to express my strong support for the reappointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I have known Riley Smith for many years, having worked with him professionally in the early parts of my career as a Land Use Planner; through his role in government as the Deputy Director of the Hawai'i County Department of Public Works; through his numerous positions on County and State Boards and Commissions, including the State BLNR, which I have appeared before on several occasions, and in association with many of the community service organizations, which we have shared a common interest in over the span of our professional careers.

Mr. Smith has demonstrated, through his many professional, governmental and community service positions, to be an individual of remarkable integrity, honesty and character. He has also shown a willingness to do the hard work that these positions demanded and has always served in these roles with a remarkable professionalism and dedication. In his current position as a DLNR Board Member. I have observed that he comes to each meeting well prepared and with a clear grasp of the issues before the Board at that time. He also shows a willingness to fully listen to and digest the information being presented to the Board.

Given Riley Smith's breath of experience and his demonstrated commitment to public and community service, I believe that this Committee would be hard-pressed to find a more qualified and capable person to serve in this position and I urge you to confirm his nomination for a second term as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:39:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika K Uyehara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of Riley Smith's nomination to the BLNR. Mr. Smith has consistently demonstrated his dedication to public service and he is a collaborative problem-solver that will serve the public and State well.

Mahalo.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:59:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

During his tenure as Land Board member, Mr. Smith has repeatedly abdicated his public trust, constitutional, and statutory obligations in favor of commercial and military interests, such as when:

He voted to accept two deeply flawed environmental impact statements for the U.S. Army's retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa and on O‘ahu, despite a litany of unaddressed environmental and cultural concerns and the Department of Land and Natural Resources staff's own recommendation that the documents be rejected;

He led Land Board decisionmaking to reopen West Hawai‘i and potentially the rest of Hawai‘i's waters to commercial aquarium collection for the first time in nearly a decade, based on the flimsy excuse that the legislature somehow mandates the Board to allow for commercial aquarium collection;

He voted to allow the Kahala resort to exclude the public from public beach lands fronting its property; and

He voted to deny East Maui kalo farmers and cultural practitioners any right to an evidentiary hearing over the continued dewatering of streams in East Maui, despite repeated court rulings that constitutional due process required that they be given a hearing.

These are just some of the highly problematic decisions Mr. Smith has made as a Board member, which raise serious questions about his expertise in natural and cultural resource management, and his commitment to upholding his fiduciary obligations under the public trust, the public land trust, and the Hawai'i constitution.

The fact that he would vote to undermine our bedrock environmental review laws and to turn a blind eye to the impacts of decades of unremediated live fire training on public lands, simply for the military's convenience, is basis enough to prevent him from continuing to serve on the Land Board.

Please recommend that the Senate **REJECT** the nomination of Mr. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mahalo.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:59:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benson Medina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony on the behalf of Riley Smith. I have know him since our days as students at Kamehameha Schools, almost 60 years ago. He has always been a consistent, intelligent, thoughtful and highly productive human being. This has been evidenced by his 50 year work and professional history including his time as Hawai'i Island's BLNR representative. I highly recommend that you re-appoint him to another term as his value to the residents of our island is immeasurable.

Mahalo,

Benson Medina, Director of Research and Economic Development for Hawaii County

John De Fries, Hawaii Island
73-1211A Kaiminani Drive, Kailua Kona, HI
808.479.1556•nativesunvision@gmail.com

April 14, 2026

Hawaii State Senate Committee of
Water Land, Culture, and the Arts
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Re: GM692

Subject: Support for RILEY SMITH, Nominee for Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:
Communities throughout the State of Hawaii are no longer spectators of their own future (nor, should they be). As such, immense public pressure is directed at certain agencies, boards, and commissions of the State but none more significant than the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Therefore, those who serve on BLNR must possess a rare combination of qualities and characteristics, as a means of making prudent decisions that will instill and hold the public's confidence.

In nominee Riley Smith we have an executive that has demonstrated his abilities to find a balance between community, culture, conservation, and commerce. As a certified engineer, it is his nature to *solve problems*. As a community leader he understands the value of *consensus-building*. As one of Native Hawaiian ancestry, a full array of integrated cultural values is part of Riley's DNA, to include (but not limited to): *Aloha Aina, Malama Aina, Kuleana and Ohana*. All told, Riley is a man of personal integrity and moral character. Riley is empathetic and compassionate yet firm and fair-minded. In the 35+ years that I have known Riley Smith I have learned that his confidence is matched by his humility.

In closing, I urge this committee to confirm Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term that will expire on June 30, 2030.

Respectfully Submitted:


John De Fries

Board Memberships: Kualoa Ranch Hawaii LLC, Friends of the Future, Henry Kapono Foundation, Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee, Former President and CEO, Hawaii Tourism Authority (2020-2023), Executive Director, Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:04:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked with Riley Smith in various capacity for many years and wholeheartedly support the testimony submitted by the Hawaii Cattlemens' Council. We are fortunate that individuals like Riley are willing and available to serve in this important role.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:38:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernon F.L. Char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support.

Frank H. Okimoto
98-1748 Kupukupu Street
Aiea, HI 96701

April 14, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair Senator
Lorraine R. Ching, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Ching, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of GM692, the nomination of Riley Smith for a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Smith is a lifelong resident of Hawaii, raised in Kaneohe and deeply connected to our islands' natural and cultural resources. Coming from a family dedicated to public service, his father Bill Smith Jr. served as Water Safety Director for the City and County of Honolulu and his mother Moana Smith taught in our public schools. He grew up in and around the ocean and his early experiences as a lifeguard at Makapuu Beach and Sandy Beach, along with his lifelong involvement in ocean recreation reflect a genuine understanding of Hawaii's coastal environment.

Professionally Mr. Smith brings decades of experience in land, resource, and infrastructure management. His service as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii's Department of Public Works gave him direct responsibility for county facilities, emergency operations and disaster response. His work with Parker Ranch and Lanihau Properties/Palani Ranch strengthened his expertise in pasture management, invasive species control, erosion mitigation and alternative energy systems. He has also overseen major construction and regulatory compliance efforts including statewide fiber-optic infrastructure requiring coordination with federal, state, and county agencies.

As President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, Mr. Smith manages 10,000 acres on Hawaii Island and works regularly with agencies such as USFWS, NPS, DLNR, DOT, DOH, DHHL and county departments. His experience with land dispositions, leases, easements, and title issues is extensive and he plays a key role in supporting important community projects including infrastructure for the proposed Queen's Health Systems hospital in Kona.

Mr. Smith has also demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community service at the state county. He approaches public service with diligence, humility, and a commitment to ensuring that decisions are grounded in accurate data and long-term stewardship.

Mr. Smith's combination of experience, technical expertise and deep respect for Hawaii's natural and cultural resources makes him well-qualified to continue serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend confirmation of GM692.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Smith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. H. Okimoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Frank H. Okimoto

Testimony of Puananionaona P. Thoene before
the **SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
1:00 pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in **SUPPORT** of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 692
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION OF AS A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
RILEY SMITH

April 14, 2026

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

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** GM 692, appointing Riley Smith as a Member of the Board and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2030.

I am a partner at Carlsmith Ball LLP and previously served as Chair of the State Environmental Advisory Council. I submit this testimony in my individual capacity. I first became acquainted with Riley some years ago as a member of the Hawai'i Leeward Planning Conference. I have also appeared before him in his capacity as member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) on several occasions.

Riley's vast experience in both the public and private sector, including various roles managing land, is a great asset to the State and of particular importance and value to his role on the BLNR. I appreciate the care that Riley takes in reviewing all applications before him in a detailed manner. Riley's thoughtful comments based on his expertise allows for well-rounded decision making. It is also important that Riley is from Hawai'i island and provides the BLNR with neighbor island perspective.

For these reasons, I strongly support GM 692 and ask that this Committee please vote in favor of confirming Riley's appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter and for your consideration.

David Z. Arakawa, Esq.

c/o 1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Email: dave.arakawa@gmail.com Telephone: (808) 783-9407

April 13, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Governor's Message 692 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

WLA Committee Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 244, & Videoconference

This is to offer my recommendation and **strong support for Mr. Riley William Smith, P.E., for reappointment to the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)**. As former Corporation Counsel for the City and County of Honolulu and current Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i, I have worked with Riley over the past twenty years on a variety of land use, infrastructure, and government-related working groups and initiatives. Through this long professional association, he has been a thoughtful, principled, and highly capable professional and government leader.

Riley brings a rare combination of technical expertise, practical land management experience, and a deep understanding of Hawai'i's regulatory and cultural landscape. A lifelong resident of Hawai'i, raised on O'ahu and a longtime resident of Hawai'i Island, he has also maintained a strong personal and professional connection to the State's ocean, land, and natural, cultural, and historic resources throughout his life.

Professionally, Riley is a licensed civil engineer with senior leadership experience in both the public and private sectors. His service as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works provided him with firsthand experience in managing complex public infrastructure systems and responding to natural disasters and emergency conditions. In the private sector, his leadership roles with Parker Ranch, Lanihau Properties, and Palani Ranch have required daily engagement with land stewardship, water resources, infrastructure development, regulatory compliance, and coordination with county, state, and federal agencies—including the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

During the meetings, working groups and forums on which we have served together, Riley has consistently demonstrated technical engineering expertise, balanced judgment, respect for diverse perspectives, and a strong appreciation for the public trust responsibilities entrusted to the BLNR. He approaches issues with careful preparation, relies on facts and data, and understands the importance of protecting Hawai'i's natural resources while responsibly addressing community and economic needs.

Based on his professional experience, integrity, and proven commitment to public service, I believe that Riley Smith will continue to be an asset to the BLNR and respectfully urge your favorable consideration for his reappointment. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **strong support** for this measure.

Very Truly Yours, David Z. Arakawa

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 11:57:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
H. Doug Matsuoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No personal swipe at Riley Smith who has been an outstanding advocate for commercial and military interests during his tenure at the Board of Land and Natural Resources, but as a decision-maker over public lands, we need public officials that make public policy that use public assets for the public good. I completely understand the difficulty in finding a person qualified for such a position, and we should thank Riley Smith for his service. But he has shown that his interests and expertise are not in accord with those required by the position.

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 12:52:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Murray	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please DO NOT support Mr. Riley Smith's confirmation to the Land Board.

A brief look at Mr. Smith's extensive record shows his competence lies in many fields. Unfortunately, it seems lacking in conservation and conservation in relation to culture. I believe he knows certain important phrases, but hasn't shown serious interest in land and water conservation.

We are at a critical point in the balance of our lands and waters as is on full display with the recent flooding. Our watersheds must be protected from overdevelopment that renders the land unable to absorb heavy rains. We have had more severe rains in the past and endured much better. Our land and people have no more time to wait for land management that looks to future generations.

In addition, so much of what was dealt with in the 1970-90s, which should have been starting points in conservation, are currently being unraveled and undone instead. People are watching and many are dismayed at the lack of concern for our environment.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Karen Murray

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 1:16:27 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Judd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He has a breadth and depth of knowledge that are important for this position.

Mahalo,
Bridget Judd

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 1:24:58 PM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

During his tenure as Land Board member, Mr. Smith has repeatedly abdicated his public trust, constitutional, and statutory obligations in favor of commercial and military interests, such as when:

He voted to accept two deeply flawed environmental impact statements for the U.S. Army's retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa and on O‘ahu, despite a litany of unaddressed environmental and cultural concerns and the Department of Land and Natural Resources staff's own recommendation that the documents be rejected;

He led Land Board decisionmaking to reopen West Hawai‘i and potentially the rest of Hawai‘i's waters to commercial aquarium collection for the first time in nearly a decade, based on the flimsy excuse that the legislature somehow mandates the Board to allow for commercial aquarium collection;

He voted to allow the Kahala resort to exclude the public from public beach lands fronting its property; and

He voted to deny East Maui kalo farmers and cultural practitioners any right to an evidentiary hearing over the continued dewatering of streams in East Maui, despite repeated court rulings that constitutional due process required that they be given a hearing.

These are just some of the highly problematic decisions Mr. Smith has made as a Board member, which raise serious questions about his expertise in natural and cultural resource management, and his commitment to upholding his fiduciary obligations under the public trust, the public land trust, and the Hawai‘i constitution.

The fact that he would vote to undermine our bedrock environmental review laws and to turn a blind eye to the impacts of decades of unremediated live fire training on public lands, simply for the military's convenience, is basis enough to prevent him from continuing to serve on the Land Board.

Please recommend that the Senate REJECT the nomination of Mr. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo.
Christy

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 2:10:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willette K. Akima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in strong support of Riley Smith's reappointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2030.

Riley carries himself with a deep sense of kuleana to our 'āina and our lāhui. His work reflects not only 'ike (knowledge), but also true respect for the cultural and natural resources that make Hawai'i, Hawai'i. He approaches decision-making with care, ha'aha'a (humility,) and a willingness to truly listen to values that are essential in this kind of leadership.

Riley has always been willing to kōkua and share his 'ike whenever I have reached out regarding matters in the Kawaihae area. He is incredibly knowledgeable, and more importantly, generous with that knowledge. He takes the time to explain, guide, and help myself and others better understand the issues at hand. This speaks to his character and his deep commitment to our Kohala community and surrounding areas.

Riley understands the importance of balance between protecting our natural resources and ensuring that our communities can continue to thrive. He leads with pono (integrity) and remains grounded in the values of our kūpuna, mālama 'āina, serving the greater good of our Kohala community, our neighboring communities, our pae 'āina, and our kānaka.

I truly believe Riley is an asset to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and I strongly ask for his reappointment. Our 'āina and our people are better served by leaders like him, that lead with intention, 'ike, and aloha.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Willette Kalāokahaku Akima-Akau

PO BOX 44414
Kawaihae, Hawai'i 96743

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 3:23:27 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LeeAnn Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I respectfully submit testimony in support of the reappointment of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Mr. Smith for decades and can attest to his integrity and commitment to the betterment of Hawaii nei. He is a dedicated community leader who works tirelessly to fulfill his commitments. I believe his extensive professional experience and knowledge will continue to greatly benefit the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

LeeAnn Silva

LATE

April 14, 2026

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

Re: GM692, Confirmation of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination/confirmation of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Riley professionally and personally for over twenty years, and his integrity, professionalism and commitment to community is beyond reproach.

Professionally, Riley possesses deep knowledge and experience in many areas critical to serving effectively as a member of this very important Board. Land/Resource management and stewardship, engineering and construction, and leadership/governance are all areas that Riley excels in.

As a community member, Riley also cares deeply about the people of our islands and the natural resources we all rely upon and cherish. The Board of Land and Natural Resources and all citizens of Hawai'i would benefit from having Riley continue his service on the Board; his input and leadership for maintaining these resources for future generations will be invaluable.

I respectfully submit my support for Riley W. Smith for confirmation to this Board.

Sincerely,

James Takamine

(808) 365-2963

james.takamine@gmail.com

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 4:06:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Owens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

During his tenure as Land Board member, Mr. Smith has repeatedly abdicated his public trust, constitutional, and statutory obligations in favor of commercial and military interests, such as when:

He voted to accept two deeply flawed environmental impact statements for the U.S. Army's retention of leased lands at Pōhakuloa and on O‘ahu, despite a litany of unaddressed environmental and cultural concerns and the Department of Land and Natural Resources staff's own recommendation that the documents be rejected;

He led Land Board decisionmaking to reopen West Hawai‘i and potentially the rest of Hawai‘i's waters to commercial aquarium collection for the first time in nearly a decade, based on the flimsy excuse that the legislature somehow mandates the Board to allow for commercial aquarium collection;

He voted to allow the Kahala resort to exclude the public from public beach lands fronting its property; and

He voted to deny East Maui kalo farmers and cultural practitioners any right to an evidentiary hearing over the continued dewatering of streams in East Maui, despite repeated court rulings that constitutional due process required that they be given a hearing.

These are just some of the highly problematic decisions Mr. Smith has made as a Board member, which raise serious questions about his expertise in natural and cultural resource management, and his commitment to upholding his fiduciary obligations under the public trust, the public land trust, and the Hawai'i constitution.

The fact that he would vote to undermine our bedrock environmental review laws and to turn a blind eye to the impacts of decades of unremediated live fire training on public lands, simply for the military's convenience, is basis enough to prevent him from continuing to serve on the Land Board.

Please recommend that the Senate **REJECT** the nomination of Mr. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo.

GM 692

LATE

I support the confirmation of Riley Smith for another term as the Hawaii Island representative to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). Mr. Smith carefully considers all relevant facts surrounding decisions to be made by the Board; and votes according to the facts. He is fair and impartial and is an anchor for the Board. Further, his depth of knowledge about land use on Hawaii Island is critical for representation on the Board.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:28:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Chon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe that this bill shouldn't be passed because Riley Smith isn't suitable for him to be elected for DLNR. I'm **STRONGLY OPPOSED** for the reasons that he's notorious of his bad reputation in prioritizing the military and commercializing our waters.

Mahalo,

Angela

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:34:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support the confirmation of Riley Smith for a 2nd term, representing Hawaii island on the WLA committee.

Riley will do another outstanding job representing the public's interest.

Mahalo,

Dwight Ho

Ikaika Mahoe
April 14, 2026

LATE

Hawai'i State Senate
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Re: Governor's Message 692 Submitting for Consideration to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Island of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Riley Smith, Term to Expire 06/30/2030

Aloha e Chair Lee and members of the committee,

I am writing to offer my strong **SUPPORT** for GM692, Mr. Riley Smith's continued service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources representing Hawai'i Island.

I have had the privilege of working with Riley in various capacities over the years, and my respect of his 'ike (knowledge), leadership, and commitment to our community has only grown stronger with time. I first met Riley while serving as a congressional staffer, when I was working to better understand Kohala's complex water systems and infrastructure in order to effectively serve the needs of the community. From the very beginning, Riley stood out as someone deeply knowledgeable, thoughtful, and generous with his time. He took the time to explain not just the technical aspects, but also the broader implications for the community and our wai (water).

Over the years, Riley has continued to be a trusted resource—not just for me, but for many across Hawai'i Island. He has developed a deep and practical understanding of our most precious resources, particularly land and water, and consistently applies that knowledge in a way that reflects both stewardship and responsibility.

Riley brings a personal connection to 'āina that cannot be taught. His upbringing and life experiences have instilled in him a genuine respect for Hawaii's natural environment and cultural values, which is evident in both his professional work and community involvement.

Professionally, Riley's qualifications are exceptional. As a licensed Professional Engineer with a background in civil engineering and business currently serving as President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, he has demonstrated the ability to manage large and complex land holdings while balancing economic, environmental, and community interests. His experience with Parker Ranch, Waimana Enterprises, and the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works further underscores his expertise in infrastructure, land use, and regulatory processes.

Equally important is his hands on experience managing natural resources, whether it be water systems, invasive species control, land stewardship, or infrastructure development. Riley understands that effective management requires both technical expertise and a deep appreciation for long-term sustainability.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Riley has dedicated countless hours to public service through boards, commissions, and community organizations. His leadership is grounded in integrity, collaboration, and a sincere desire to give back to the community he calls home.

Riley has a unique ability to navigate complex issues with a fair and balance perspective, always keeping in mind the long-term well-being of Hawaii's people. His voice on the Board of Land and Natural Resources is both informed and steady. Qualities that are essential for thoughtful and responsible decision-making.

For all of these reasons, I strongly **SUPPORT** Riley Smith's reappointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He is a proven leader who truly understands the responsibility that comes with serving the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a (With humility),

Ikaika Mahoe

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 7:07:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Dew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the **Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)**. I am concerned that Riley does not represent the best interest of the people of Hawai'i. He is a developer and land manager from Hawai'i Island, he has made some controversial decisions, including by urging his fellow Board members to "accept" highly flawed environmental impact statements submitted by the US Army for its "retention" of "ceded" (i.e. stolen) Hawaiian and public land trust lands at Pōhakuloa and on O'ahu. He also led the BLNR's decisionmaking to approve for public hearing proposed rules to reopen West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection. Mr. Smith also voted in favor of the privatization of public beach areas fronting the Kahala resort despite repeated concerns raised regarding the public trust, and in favor of the issuance of unfair and unjustified East maui stream diversion permits that have been repeatedly shot down by the courts.

Thank you,

Sierra Dew

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:12:19 PM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to oppose Riley Smith's second term to serve on the BLNR. Smith's interest do not align with the current needs of Hawai'i especially in a time where we're facing immense climate change and shift. What we've been doing in the past cannot be how we move into the future.

Smith's positioning on the military's EIS for seized Hawaiian Kingdom lands in O'ahu and Hawai'i, was extremely questionable and contrary to expert and the public's opinion on whether it met required standards meant to protect our environment for future generations. This is a issue that will require grounded leadership with honest analysis of past actions by the world's largest polluter.

He's consistently sided with business development and interests that do not center what's best for Hawai'i. They are short sighted and do not allow Hawai'i to continue to work toward necessary restoration of 'āina stewardship systems.

Please head my call. A call that I make as a mother who has birthed children to care and love Hawai'i as their ancestors have since time immemorial.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

Noel Shaw

Kalāwahine

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:21:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support the nominee of Riley Smith as he is not for the Hawaiian people nor the 'aina. We need leaders whose priority lies in caring for the native community and protect the land.

I beg you to not nominate him

Julia Estigoy-Kaho'onei

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:36:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shantee brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please do not confirm riley smith. his voting record shows that he does not make decisions that support hawaii's constitutional requirements to uphold the public trust. the courts have overturned some of his decisions, such as, 1. approving exclusive use of o'ahu public beaches for a luxury resort. 2. denying east maui kalo farmers their right to stream waters.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:38:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr Smith is NOT good for Hawai'i. There's no way he can make PONO decisions with the values he carries. Please oppose this nomination.

Mahalo nui,

Malia Marquez

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:44:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and members of the committee,

My name is Lauren and I stand in firm opposition of Mr. Smith's nomination.

Nominated for a second term, this developer and land manager from Hawai‘i Island has supported a series of controversial decisions. These include accepting highly flawed environmental impact statements submitted by the U.S. Army for its “retention” of “ceded” (i.e., stolen) Hawaiian and public land trust lands at Pōhakuloa and on O‘ahu. This after 12 hours of testimony from communities raising serious concerns on the continuation of live-fire training to our resources. He also led the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) in approving for public hearing proposed rules that would reopen West Hawai‘i to commercial aquarium collection.

For decades, an imbalance of developer interests on the board has led to decisions with detrimental environmental impacts—consequences that will be felt by generations to come. In the face of accelerating climate destabilization, we need a board that exercises true due diligence, stewarding our resources responsibly to protect their integrity for both present and future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

LATE

Aloha,

I am in **OPPOSITION** of **GM692** and the continuance of Riley Smith serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Anyone who cannot serve the land of Hawai'i properly, respectfully, and considerably does not belong in any position responsible for managing it.

If you don't work for the people, you won't work for the people.

Mahalo,

Kaiulani Kalua

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:53:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Kau'i Young and I vehemently oppose the appointment of Riley Smith. A developer and land manager from Hawai'i Island, he has supported controversial decisions, including accepting [highly flawed environmental impact statements](#) submitted by the US Army for its "retention" of "ceded" (i.e. stolen) Hawaiian and public land trust lands at Pōhakuloa and on O'ahu. He [also led the BLNR's decisionmaking](#) to approve for public hearing proposed rules to reopen West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection.

Smith's track record of seedy mismanagement of our 'āina in favor of predatory capitalist practices and his status as a developer and land manager are clear markers of a conflict of interest and a failure to align with the protocols in place to prevent said mismanagement. Clearly, his interests lie in privatizing public and ceded lands and pillaging fragile ecosystems for profit. We cannot afford to enable politicians like Smith to further endanger the public good. I implore you to reject his nomination to the BLNR.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jennifer Kau'i Young

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:30:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Roy Kaiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of of the gubernatorial nomination of Riley Smth. He has a been a wonderful representative for the Big Island and the state of Hawaii. A great listener and concensus maker particualry in fisheries management where special interest groups many funded by mainland monies have created an unlevel playing field for many of our lawai'a our local fishermen. I feel Rileys background and education has served the state of Hawaii in understanding how culture and science can work together to protect our native resoures

Thank you for your cosideration

Steve Kaiser

Hawi Hawaii

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:45:17 PM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cord Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cord Anderson, from Kamuela, HI. I have known Riley in many capacities over the years and support his nomination onto BLNR for another term. He is fair and thorough in his observations and actions.

I can be reached at 808-781-2944 or via email at cord@anekona.com for any further questions.

Mahalo,

Cord

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:56:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Ruddle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, and Vice Chair Inouye,

My name is Kawika Ruddle, and I am writing in strong support of Riley Smith's return to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Although I have known Riley for a relatively short time, it has been clear to me that he is deeply committed to our community and to the stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources. I have come to know him not only through direct interaction, but also through the many projects, community events, and volunteer efforts he has been involved in.

Riley consistently shows up for the community, contributing his time and energy to initiatives that support both people and place. His willingness to serve, along with his thoughtful and balanced approach, reflects the kind of leadership that is needed in positions of responsibility such as the BLNR.

Based on what I have seen and heard, I believe Riley brings integrity, care, and a genuine commitment to doing what is right for Hawai'i. I respectfully ask that you support his return to the Board.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kawika Ruddle

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 11:06:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Ka'aekuahiwi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to the confirmation of Riley Smith to the Land Board.

The decisions made by the Board of Land and Natural Resources carry deep responsibility—impacting not only our natural resources, but also the cultural practices, 'ike (knowledge), and livelihoods of the people of Hawai'i. These kuleana require individuals who possess both a strong foundation in conservation and a genuine understanding and respect for Native Hawaiian culture and values.

Mr. Smith does not demonstrate the level of conservation expertise or cultural competency necessary for this role. At a time when our 'āina faces increasing pressure—from development, climate change, and resource mismanagement—it is critical that board members bring informed, thoughtful, and culturally grounded perspectives to the table.

The Land Board should reflect and serve the people of Hawai'i. Appointing individuals who lack meaningful experience in conservation and cultural stewardship risks decisions that are disconnected from community needs and values.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to not confirm Riley Smith to the Land Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kaaekuahiwi

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 11:27:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

During his tenure as Land Board member, Mr. Smith has repeatedly abdicated his public trust, constitutional, and statutory obligations in favor of commercial and military interests.

Hawaii is too precious to have Riley throwing his destructive weight around on important land and natural resources issues. His actions show he does not respect the 'aina or, maybe, just plainly has no understanding of what Hawaii really is about in terms of its natural and cultural resources.

The fact that he would vote to undermine our bedrock environmental review laws and to turn a blind eye to the impacts of decades of unremediated live fire training on public lands, simply for the military's convenience, is basis enough to prevent him from continuing to serve on the Land Board.

Please recommend that the Senate **REJECT** the nomination of Mr. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 1:24:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Nishimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and the members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

Please oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to serve a second term on the BLNR. His actions in his first term demonstrated that he is not qualified to steward the land and natural resources of Hawaii.

Community members are disturbed that Gov. Green has re-nominated Mr. Smith. We hope that our senators will provide the necessary checks to reject special-interest nominees who do not serve the aina and the citizens of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity express my concerns.

LATE

Aloha,

My name is Kaimookalani Muhlestein. I strongly oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to a second term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Board members are entrusted with a noble and high kuleana—to be stewards of this pae ‘āina. That duty requires protecting Hawai‘i’s lands, waters, and public trust resources for present and future generations.

Mr. Smith’s disconnection from pae ‘āina stewardship is reflected in decisions that do not align with the cultural kuleana of mālama ‘āina from Pōhakuloa to O‘ahu, the living waters of the moana, and the sacred interconnectedness of land, sea, and people. His actions do not reflect the ‘ike and kuleana required to care for Hawai‘i’s public trust lands, waters, shorelines, and the natural resources of our ocean fisheries. Mr. Smith’s stewardship practices weaken our nohona (way of life) through our cultural interconnectedness with mālama i ke kai (ocean fishery stewardship).

I cannot support Mr. Smith’s nomination for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He has supported the acceptance of flawed Army environmental assessments for ceded lands at Pōhakuloa and O‘ahu, demonstrated poor mālama i ke kai practices in the protection of our ocean fisheries, voted to privatize public shorelines at Kahala, and supported East Maui stream diversions that have been rejected by the courts.

These actions raise serious concerns about his ability to uphold the kuleana entrusted to the Board.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject his nomination for a second term.

Mahalo

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 6:40:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Bacasen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley Smith has a demonstrated track record of using his position to favor commercial and military interests in ways that wholly subsume public interests in responsible resource management, clean and non hazardous environments, and public access to our environmental resources.

From being willing to accept and urging others to accept flawed EIS submissions from the military to rulings by environmental courts showing a breach in public trust regarding BLNR's issuance of stream diversion permits in East Maui, Mr. Smith's renomination signals a second term of continued erosion of Hawai'i resources and future.

Hawai'i needs leadership that will not bend to larger forces that do not consider the health and well being of its people and places to be a necessary priority. At the bare minimum, it needs someone in this position that takes seriously the responsibility to uphold the perpetuation of our land and natural resources for generations to come. The knowledge of how to do so from both western science and Hawaiian environmental practice is abundant. We need leadership in this position that can weild both while having the courage and integrity to navigate the systems that have historically excluded both from BLNR's decision making and turned it into a shadow of what it could be as a protector of public trust.

Riley Smith was given a chance to prove he could be that leader, and he simply has not. I urge the Committee to open the mantle to new leadership and reject Mr. Smith's renomination.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 7:36:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators -

I am writing in **STRONG** opposition to the nomination of Riley Smith to the BLNR Board.

Mr Smith has many conflicts of interest that make him a very bad candidate for this position. He has overseen the acceptance of a flawed EIS from the military for state lands. Mr Smith also led the decisionmaking that West Hawaii should be re-opened for commercial aquarium collection.

The community of West Hawai'i is opposed to that and all of the on-island hearings reflected that. The conflicts of interest of having a developer and land manager in a position that is supposed to care for the land, not corporations seem obvious.

Please vote against Mr Smith receiving a second term. The BLNR has a responsibility to the people to take care of the land in public trust, and this nomination goes against that care.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 7:42:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john komeiji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my support of Riley Smith’s re-appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the State of Hawai‘i. Riley brings a rare combination of diligence, thoughtfulness, and grounded common-sense judgment—qualities that are essential for a board entrusted with stewarding Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources.

Throughout his work, Riley has demonstrated a consistent commitment to listening deeply and seeking meaningful community input. He understands that effective resource management requires not only technical knowledge but also respect for the diverse perspectives of those who live closest to the land and waters affected by board decisions. His ability to engage respectfully with community members, stakeholders, and subject-matter experts reflects both humility and integrity.

Riley is also a natural problem solver. He approaches complex issues with patience, clarity, and a solutions-oriented mindset. Rather than being deterred by competing priorities or challenging circumstances, he works methodically to identify practical paths forward. His balanced approach—rooted in careful analysis and a genuine desire to serve the public good—would be an asset to the Board’s deliberations.

I am confident that Riley Smith would continue to bring thoughtful leadership, collaborative spirit, and steady judgment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His appointment would serve the people and the environment of Hawai‘i well.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Komeiji

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 7:46:09 AM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra Chee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to ask that you **REJECT GM692** which considers Riley Smith for a second term with the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

A developer and land manager from Hawai'i Island, he has made some controversial decisions, including by urging his fellow Board members to "accept" highly flawed environmental impact statements submitted by the US Army for its "retention" of "ceded" (i.e. stolen) Hawaiian and public land trust lands at Pōhakuloa and on O'ahu. He also led the BLNR's decisionmaking to approve for public hearing proposed rules to reopen West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection. Mr. Smith also voted in favor of the privatization of public beach areas fronting the Kahala resort despite repeated concerns raised regarding the public trust, and in favor of the issuance of unfair and unjustified East maui stream diversion permits that have been repeatedly shot down by the courts.

I want members of the BLNR to uphold their commitment to protect our 'āina and wai. **We need a board member who loves and prioritizes Hawai'i: 'āina, wai, and kānaka over profits and development in every decision.** I would not feel confident that this would be the case with Mr. Smith.

Mahalo,

Cassie Chee
'Aiea, 96701

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:19:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to the nomination of Riley Smith to serve another term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The BLNR holds a critical kuleana to steward Hawai‘i’s public trust resources, including our ‘āina, wai, and cultural landscapes. This responsibility requires leadership grounded in transparency, accountability, and a demonstrated commitment to protecting both natural and cultural resources for present and future generations.

Mr. Smith’s record raises serious concerns about his ability to uphold this responsibility.

He has supported the acceptance of deeply flawed environmental impact statements related to the U.S. Army’s continued control over lands at Pōhakuloa and on O‘ahu—lands that are part of the public land trust and carry profound cultural and historical significance to Native Hawaiian communities. These decisions signal a troubling willingness to prioritize expediency over rigorous environmental and cultural review.

Additionally, his role in advancing efforts to reopen West Hawai‘i to commercial aquarium collection reflects a disregard for longstanding community concerns and the ecological impacts of such practices. These decisions have not aligned with the precautionary approach necessary to protect Hawai‘i’s fragile marine ecosystems.

Mr. Smith has also supported actions that raise concerns about the erosion of public trust protections, including decisions related to the privatization of public beach access areas and the approval of East Maui stream diversion permits that have repeatedly been challenged and overturned in court. These actions suggest a pattern of decision-making that does not adequately center the rights of the public or the legal standards intended to safeguard our natural resources.

The BLNR must be composed of individuals who demonstrate sound judgment, respect for community voices, and a clear commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s resources in accordance with the law and public trust doctrine. Based on his record, I do not have confidence that Mr. Smith meets this standard.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this nomination.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:40:17 AM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Lefebvre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to express my strong support for the nomination/re-appointment of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. As a environmental professional, I have seen the difficult work of serving on the BLNR and can attest that Riley is a tremendous asset to the Board. His level-headed and thoughtful approach benefits the State of Hawai'i as it continues to deal with complex issues and benefits the citizens of the State of Hawai'i who hope for balanced decisions from BLNR. I support the confirmation of Riley Smith so that he may continue his extraordinary service to our State.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:40:52 AM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya K.D. Alana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **OPPOSE RILEY's** confirmation by Joshua Green! We the people OF Hawaii, the Kanaka 'Ōiwi, demand this fraudulent state to dissolve. There is NO TREATY OF ANNEXATION, meaning NO JURISDICTION. Public Law 103-150 still stands on the recognition of the ILLEGAL OVERTHROW, and the governments transition back to the people, which hasn't happened!! THIS ENTIRE GOVERNMENT AND PROCESSES ARE UNLAWFUL!!! AND YOU ALL KNOW IT!!! YOU ALL ARE JUST CHOOSING TO IGNORE INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL GAIN AND TO FILL YOUR POCKETS!!! WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII ARE NOT DUMB, WE SE THROUGH ALL OF YOU!!!

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:15:57 AM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Barna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination and re-appointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I work as a heritage management consultant and have crossed paths with Mr. Smith many times over the last decade in that line of work. I am very familiar with the excellent work done by Riley over the years in his roles at the Hawai'i County Department of Public Works, at Parker Ranch, Palani Ranch, and Lanihau Properties, and as a BLNR Board member. In my professional capacity, I have been impressed by Riley's concern for the cultural heritage on the lands he has managed and his understanding of the need to balance its care with development needs. Riley is one of the most thorough, pragmatic, and detail-oriented, yet concerned with the big picture, members that I have seen on the Board. This has been especially true during his recent time on the Board as they grapple with difficult decisions about how best to care for these islands. He consistently considers public testimony in a fair and intelligent manner, and his I strongly feel he has always worked in the interest of the citizens of the State of Hawai'i who hope for wise and fair decisions from what may be the most important Board or Commission in our State. Please confirm Riley Smith so that he may continue his extraordinary service to our State.

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:21:52 AM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear WLA committee members,

I strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith for a second 4 year term on BLNR. I have worked alongside him since August 2025 and without any reservation, can attest to his commitment, preparedness and leadership at BLNR. Riley is someone I believe is needed at BLNR. Please support his nomination.

Aloha Calvin Young

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:43:33 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

I respectfully offer my support for the appointment of Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Over many years, Mr. Smith has demonstrated a steady commitment to responsible land stewardship, infrastructure planning, and public service in Hawai‘i. As a licensed civil engineer in the State of Hawai‘i since 1980, with formal training in water resources and finance, he brings a balanced technical and managerial perspective that is essential to the thoughtful management of our natural and public lands.

Mr. Smith’s professional experience reflects both depth and breadth. His leadership roles in land management and development—including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanihau Properties—have required careful coordination with regulatory agencies, community stakeholders, and environmental requirements. These responsibilities have given him a practical understanding of how land use decisions affect both natural resources and the communities that depend on them.

Equally important is his record of public service. Mr. Smith has served in numerous advisory and community roles related to land, water, and infrastructure, including work with planning committees, water-related initiatives, and trail and resource management groups. These experiences demonstrate not only technical capability but also a willingness to listen, collaborate, and serve the broader public interest.

In my view, Riley approaches public service with humility, respect for differing perspectives, and a genuine desire to contribute constructively. He understands the importance of balancing conservation, cultural values, responsible development, and long-term sustainability. His steady temperament and practical judgment make him well-suited for the thoughtful deliberation required of Board members.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Riley Smith’s appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I believe he will continue to serve with integrity, diligence, and care for the people and natural resources of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Kyle Chock

LATE

GM-692

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:54:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. This nominee and shown consistent poor judgement and not working to support the mission of BLNR.