

Paul Horner-GM 739 Nomination to MKSOA 4/22/2026

Response:

1) Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

During my first term as a member of the MKSOA group, our kuleana under Chairman John Komeiji was to begin organizing the steps we needed to take to build our organization, while transitioning/partnering with the Center for Mauna Kea Stewardship at the University of Hawai'i. I would love to continue and complete our goal of transitioning the MKSOA by July 1, 2028.

During this process, I am a member of the Transition Working Group, helping to organize leases, assets, inventories, and staffing levels to achieve our goals. Our Executive Director and his team have taken the first steps to organize and schedule community meetings across the islands to address the many questions and concerns of our native Hawaiian community.

My personal goal is to achieve these goals through our Hawaiian values of 'ohana, ho'ohanohano, ha'aha'a, while we malama the Mauna!

2) What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

We are all "paddling in the same canoe" with diverse experiences and challenges that make our team complete. As a team, we are all committed because we must malama Mauna Kea with the respect she deserves. The leadership team, including Chair Komeiji and Executive Director John DeFries, inspires our team to complete our transition to MKSOA by July 1, 2028.

3) Based on your understanding of the role and responsibilities of this position, please explain why you believe you are qualified to serve. Include a brief description of the skills, experience, expertise, or knowledge you would bring to the Authority and how they would inform your decision-making.

My qualifications include both Hospitality and Nonprofit organizations, including: As General Manager and part of our ownership/construction and hospitality team in Napa, California, the Carneros Inn completed a \$55 million expansion of the resort,

including a new conference center, the Farm Restaurant, 22 private homes, and 17 fractional units in 18 months on budget.

I also served on the Board of Directors for Kona-Kohala Habitat for Humanity from 2008 to 2013, including the last 2 years as Chairman. We developed a strong relationship with DHHL and completed our first Habitat for Humanity “Blitz Build” of the first five family homes in the Kealakehe Hawaiian Homes subdivision within a 15-day deadline.

My skill set includes experience as a Hospitality General Manager for 17 years in luxury resorts in Hawai’i and California. My nonprofit experience included positions as President and CEO of Na Leo TV, Executive Director of the Grove Farm Museum, and Board member for Kaua’i Museum, Ho’ola Lahui Kaua’i Community Health Center, and Kona Kohala Habitat for Humanity. My decision-making skills came from 17 years as a General Manager and 13 years as a board member at several nonprofit organizations, where we shared our mana’o and voted our conscience.

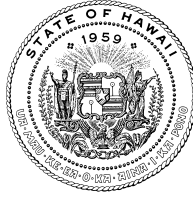
Our current group of board members and staff has a very diverse background by design. We all have different experiences that can contribute to the success of transitioning the MKSOA by the current deadline.

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

If I am confirmed, our board members’ goal is to organize and complete the transfer of all leases, physical facilities, employees, and assets by July 1, 2028, as we begin to chart our course of action into the future.

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

I am not aware of any conflicts of interest.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

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

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

Thursday, April 23, 2026
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 739

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

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of **Governor's Message No. 739**, the appointment of **Paul Horner** to serve on the **Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee** for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

Paul Horner is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools–Kapalama Campus and Northwestern University. He is the former CEO of Na Leo o Hawaii, former Resort Manager of the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort, and former Managing Director of Marketing at the Big Island Visitors Bureau. He brings extensive experience in business, finance, and administration, including managing large private-sector operations, along with leadership experience as an executive director of a nonprofit organization on Kauai.

Through his service on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee, Mr. Horner has demonstrated a thoughtful and balanced approach to stewardship. He has applied his expertise in strategic planning, governance, and stakeholder engagement to ensure that decisions regarding Mauna Kea are made with care, respect, and a long-term perspective.

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Testimony of the Governor

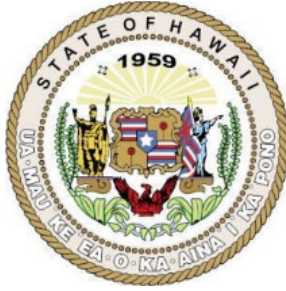
G.M. No. 739

April 23, 2026

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JOHN KOMEIJI
Chairperson

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

*ex-officio

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

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

April 22, 2026

Committee On Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Member

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Member

Senator Samantha DeCorte, Member

Submitted Electronically

SUBJECT: GM 739: Letter of Support for the Consideration and Confirmation of Nominee, PAUL HORNER to the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a Term to Expire on 06.30.2029

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

The effectiveness of Paul Horner as an Authority Member is evidenced by his actions during his first term to include his preparation and full engagement at each of our monthly meetings. In addition, he serves as vice chair of the Long-Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG) which oversees the work of a legal consultant in its review of existing assets, liabilities, contracts, agreements, and licenses, etc. that are currently held by the University of Hawaii. The work of the LTTWG will culminate in a final report that is scheduled to be completed by mid-May 2026 after which Mr. Horner's knowledge and understanding of this complex inventory of documents will help guide the MKSOA staff through its transition phase which ends on 06.30.2028.

Through his extensive career in the hospitality and luxury resort management industry, Mr. Horner has a working knowledge of an array of disciplines that MKSOA must integrate into its operating system to include: strategic planning and analysis, property management, human resources and training, cost control analysis and implementation, revenue management, annual budget preparations, customer service and management of capital improvement projects. As a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Paul Horner comes from a tightly knit local family that is steeped in Hawaiian cultural knowledge and traditional practices.

During the thirty-five years that I have known Paul Horner, I have found him to be humble and compassionate, fair-minded, and honorable, professional, and prudent in his ways - with a deep and lasting love for Hawaii.

In closing I urge this committee to advance the nomination of Paul Horner toward confirmation by the full Senate for a term at MKSOA that will expire on 06.30.2029.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John De Fries". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "D".

John De Fries

Executive Director



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

RE: Strong support of GM739

April 23, 2026

Hawaiian Council writes in **strong support of GM739** for consideration and confirmation of Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

With experience across a range of industries, Horner has built a diverse career that has equipped him with the expertise and knowledge essential to the work of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). He has held roles in the tourism industry with companies in both Hawai'i and the continental United States. In addition, he brings experience in real estate, alongside his current role as President and CEO of Nā Leo 'O Hawai'i.

Each of these roles has contributed to the well-rounded perspective he brings to MKSOA. His background in property management, capital projects, strategic planning, and related areas enables him to provide meaningful value to the State agency. Moreover, since the establishment of MKSOA in 2022, its goal "to protect Mauna Kea for future generations and manage the lands for the purpose of fostering a mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education, and science are in balance and synergy" is a mission to which Horner has meaningfully contributed throughout his term.

In 2022, Horner was one of three individuals submitted by the President of the Senate to serve on MKSOA, entrusted to apply his skills toward this important responsibility and to act on behalf of our communities. In addition to his professional qualifications, he embodies the values of cultural respect, community commitment, and transparency that are essential to MKSOA's work. If reappointed, we are confident that Horner will continue to exceed expectations and contribute greatly to the community, the lāhui, and the future of Mauna Kea.

For these reasons, Hawaiian Council respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS GM739**. Mahalo for your continued efforts in supporting the lāhui.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kūhiō Lewis
CEO, Hawaiian Council

HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I

91-1270 Kinoiki Street, Building 1, Kapolei, HI 96707

info@hawaiiancouncil.org

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Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu. Hawai'i 96813

Honorable Hawai'i Senate Committee Members of Economic Development and Tourism
& Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

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

Honorable Chair Senator Chris Lee and Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye:

My name is Terri Napeahi a representative of the organization Waiākea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs (WACH). I respectfully urge you to recommend that the Senate does **NOT** reappoint Mr. Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority (MSKOA).

The Admission Act Trust (1959): After the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the Provisional Government and later the Republic of Hawaii seized these lands "ceded" or **stole**, approximately 1.4 million acres back to the State of Hawai'i to be held as a "**Public Land Trust.**" **The Admission Act** required that any revenue or development on these lands serve five specific purposes:

- Support for the public education
- **Betterment of conditions for Native Hawaiians**
- **Development of farm and homeownership.**
- Making Public improvements
- Provisions of lands for public use.

It is my understanding that Mr. Paul Horner is not a full-time resident in the State of Hawai'i, and was most likely considered because of his professional background in finances. Act 255 Established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MSKOA), which assumes governance and management responsibility over Mauna Kea, Many of those appointed have a Hawaiian Cultural background, ensuring that those with cultural expertise have a voting right on the management of Mauna Kea. The University of Hawai'i sees this as problematic, because they believe that having Hawaiians in the authority group will hinder their opportunity to move forward with development, and that having Hawaiians will limit commercial use and activities that UH deem beneficial. This is concerning to those who believe that the Mountain is an important component to reaching the highest respect to their Akua, and Aumakua. The University of Hawai'i has published in statements that the current appointees have a "**Hawaiian Cultural background,**" on their website, and later stating that the creation of this authority will have an **impact** on the current management of the Mauna. They also claim that the current authority group intends to establish rules and limits on development, and potentially limit commercial use and activities that UH deems beneficial.

These statements are discriminatory and warrants an investigation. The Governor appointing someone with no connection to Mauna Kea and its spiritual significance is harmful to our Hawaiian people and their spiritual practices. The University of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i intentionally continues to dismiss the religious aspects of Mauna Kea and the current authority group is crucial, for oversight. Their expertise will eliminate the act of desecration and the harm to aina. Also, lessens the risks for judicial challenges.

This is probably why Senator Inouye, you have a problem with allowing (1) voting member on the HCDA Authority group for Banyan/Makaokū. Things are beginning to make sense. Auwe!

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

Terri L. Napeahi
Waiākea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs



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

Governor's Message 739

**Nomination of Paul Horner to the
Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

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

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories appreciate the opportunity to share our **strong support** of the confirmation of Paul Horner to continue serving as a Board Member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

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

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

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

With aloha,



Geoff Bower, Director
East Asian Observatory



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



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



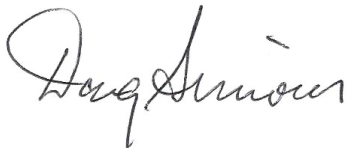
Rich Matsuda, Director
W. M. Keck Observatory



Satoshi Miyazaki, Director
Subaru Telescope
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan



John Rayner, Director
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



Doug Simons, Director
University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy



Warren Skidmore, Deputy Director
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



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

Ka'ūmana Hawai'ian Homes Community Association

2043 Uhaloa Road Hilo, Hawaii 96720 Cell It 1-808-854-6500

April 22, 2026

LATE

Subject: Testimony in OPPOSITION to GM739 - Reappointment of Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority (MSKSOA)

Aloha e Chair Senator Chang, Vice Chair Senator Inouye, and honorable members of the WLA, Culture & the Arts Committee,

My name is Cornelia Haliniak, Vice President of the Kaumana Hawaiian Homes Community Association. I am a Native Hawaiian as defined by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) of 1920 (as amended). I write as someone newly learning about these issues and deeply concerned for our kanaka, kūpuna, and the future of Mauna Kea.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE GM739 (the reappointment of Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority).

As I learn more, I keep asking: will Hawaiians always be treated as second-rate when decisions about our 'āina and 'uhane are made? The history and legal framework matter: after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, lands were seized and set aside under the Admission Act Trust to support public education, improve conditions for Native Hawaiians, promote farm and homeownership, fund public improvements, and provide lands for public use. Mauna Kea is not only an environmental and scientific resource – it is sacred to Native Hawaiians and central to our cultural and spiritual practice.

My concerns include:

- Residency and eligibility: Act 255 prioritizes Hawai'i residency for MKSOA members. It is my understanding that Mr. Horner is not a full-time resident of the island. Appointing someone without clear island residency undermines the intent of the law and the trust of our communities.
- Cultural and spiritual stewardship: Mauna Kea requires stewards who understand and honor its spiritual significance. Many community members worry appointments are being made for professional or commercial reasons rather than to protect cultural practice and mālama 'āina.

- Discriminatory impressions and trust: Statements and actions that suggest Hawaiian cultural participation will limit development, create a chilling effect. If the University or State implies that Native Hawaiian involvement obstructs progress, that is discriminatory and must be addressed. Our people deserve respect, not dismissal of our beliefs and kuleana.
- Local impact on kūpuna and kanaka: Decisions by the MKSOA directly affect kūpuna and families who have cared for these lands for generations. Appointing members without meaningful ties to Mauna Kea risks decisions that harm access to cultural practice, erode trust, and further marginalize Native Hawaiians.

Requested action: Please reject GM739 and request nominees who clearly meet Act 255 residency requirements and who bring verifiable, meaningful cultural knowledge, local ties, and lived experience of Hawai'i Island to the MKSOA.

I also ask the Committee to investigate statements or actions that appear to diminish Native Hawaiian cultural authority over Mauna Kea.

Mahalo nui loa for listening to someone who is still learning but who feels the pain of exclusion. Our kanaka deserve genuine inclusion, respect, and protection of our sacred places.

Me ke aloha,

Cornelia Haliniak

Vice President, Kaumana Hawaiian Homes Community Association



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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Carla Kuo

2025-2026

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Tracie Yoshimoto

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

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

LATE

Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 1:00 PM

RE: GM739 Mauna Kea Stewardship and Authority
Gubernatorial Nominee PAUL HORNER

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to offer our support for the confirmation of Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

The Authority has made meaningful strides in advancing a comprehensive management plan for Maunakea, consistent with the intent and direction of Act 255. Maintaining this progress will require steady leadership and a continued commitment to thoughtful, balanced decision-making.

We commend MKSOA's efforts to actively engage the community through a series of workshops held earlier this year. These outreach efforts have created important opportunities for residents and stakeholders to share mana'o and help inform a collaborative and inclusive path forward.

As this work continues, preserving continuity within the MKSOA board will be especially important. The relationships and trust that current members have established with the community and key stakeholders are critical to sustaining momentum and ensuring a stable transition as plans move toward implementation.

Paul Horner brings a background in business and finance, along with executive-level management experience in large private sector organizations, including within the resort and tourism marketing sectors. His expertise will provide valuable insight as the Authority carries out its responsibilities.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued support of responsible stewardship and collaborative governance for Maunakea.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

GM-739

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 9:23:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/23/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Kahawaiolaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye and Honorable members of the WLA, Culture & the Arts,

I'm Pat Kahawaiolaa, A native Hawaiian as defined pursuant to the HHCA 1920 as amended July 9, 1921 (42, 42 stat. 108) 67th Congress and an Advocate for kūpuna on the DHHL wait list and Kūpuna already on the land and I'm here to STRONGLY OBJECT to Governor Green's GM739, the reappointment of Mr. Paul Horner to the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority (MKSOA) to end in 2029...

It is my understanding that based on Act 255 that Hawaii residency is a requirement, there is some concern of Mr. Horner not being a full time resident of Hawaii island, however even if he is, in my humble opinion, I believed he already served by appointment from Governor Green in the past and I thank him for her service to Governor Green, and his experience as a financial adviser is what the Governor is looking at, however, given the opportunity I believe there are some just as qualified or better who for me has ties, born or lives on Hawaii island and knows the deep spiritual reasons as well as the economical and scientific choices to be made in what the beneficiaries of these public trust lands can realize into the future, by the actions made or yet to be made of this Authority and for that and other reasons I STRONGLY OBJECT to Mr. Paul Horner to this reappointment by GM739, to sit on the MKSOA until 2029

Thank you and I can be reached at (808) 937-8217 is more info is needed...

‘Owau,

Pat Kahawaiolaa, Advocate KOKA