

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and
Landscape Architects**

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2607, S.D. 1, RELATING TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eli Lane, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects to determine the appropriate educational and examination requirements for landscape architect licensure. The measure also clarifies the experience requirements for licensure and includes an effective date of July 1, 2050.

The Board strongly supports this measure's goal of modernizing and aligning Hawaii's landscape architecture licensure requirements with current national standards. The Board also appreciates the adopted amendments, which help clarify and strengthen the measure.

This bill establishes viable pathways for individuals to enter the landscape architecture profession while maintaining robust experience requirements and appropriate supervision to safeguard the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



March 30, 2026

TO: Honorable Scott Matayoshi, Chair
Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Hawaii State Council
A Chapter of the
American Institute of Architects

FROM: Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council

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Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

The American Institute of Architects, Hawaii Chapter (AIA Hawaii) would like to submit testimony in support of **SB 2607 SD1**, which proposes to modify Section 464-1 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes in regards to licensure requirements of Landscape Architects only.

In alignment with support testimony during Senate committee hearings from the State Board of professional EASLA (Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects), the National American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Hawaii American Society of Landscape Architects (HASLA), University of Hawai'i at Manoa Landscape Architecture Master's program directorship, and Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards; AIA Hawaii understands that SB 2607 SB1 will amend language within the HRS 464-1 related **only** to Landscape Architect licensing requirements in order to align with National registration boards. In addition, it is our understanding that no other amended sections or language to the HRS 464-1 is proposed by SB 2607 SD1. It is AIA Hawaii's desire to limit changes to the HRS 464 to a minimum as mandated requirements to licensure has been carefully crafted and has had long-standing success in relationship with the State Board of EASLA and the design professional industry.

In solidarity with our Landscape Architect counterparts, AIA Hawaii supports the intent of SB 2607 SD1.

Respectfully submitted,
Reid Mizue, AIA
Legislative Advocacy Committee – AIA Hawai'i

Hawaii State Legislature
House of Representatives Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair/Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

March 30, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 2607, SD1 Relating to Landscape Architects

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

I am testifying in my personal capacity, as a subject matter expert.

My name is Joel Kurokawa. I am a licensed landscape architect, principal and founder of Ki Concepts, a landscape architecture, site planning, and urban design firm in Honolulu. I currently serve as a landscape architect member on the Hawaii State Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA). I am also past president of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). CLARB is a non-profit organization that works to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare by establishing and promoting professional licensure standards for landscape architects. Its members are the licensing boards across the United States, its territories, and Canada. CLARB produces and administers the Landscape Architects Registration Exam, LARE, the passage of which is one of the requirements for licensure by all licensing jurisdictions, including Hawaii, throughout the USA.

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2607, SD1 with amendments included by the Hawaii Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA).

SB2607, SD1 proposes amendments to HRS § 464-8(d), Qualifications for Licensure as a Professional Landscape Architect. These changes would modernize and align Hawaii's Landscape Architects Licensing Requirements with the *Uniform Standard for Landscape Architecture Licensure* developed by CLARB. The State EASLA Board previously voted in favor of adopting these new requirements established by CLARB in 2022. Furthermore, SB 2607 SD1 is supported by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA national), Hawaii Chapter ASLA, CLARB, and AIA (American Institute of Architects) Hawaii Chapter.

Adopting uniform licensure standards will create consistent requirements across jurisdictions, improve mobility for landscape architects, and provide increased access to the profession. As a landscape architect, employer, and regulator, this legislation is important because it would give EASLA the ability to reduce the years of experience required for most applicants seeking licensure while continuing to ensure the protection of the public and environments throughout Hawaii.

Much mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Kurokawa, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
Principal/Founder, Ki Concepts LLC
Past President, CLARB

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

March 30, 2026

Testimony for SB 2607 SD1 Relating to Landscape Architects

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide **testimony in support of SB2607, SD1 with the amendments proposed by the written testimony of the Hawaii Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA).**

My name is Nancy Cassandro. I am a landscape architect member of the Hawaii Professional Licensing Board EASLA, however today I am providing my personal testimony. I live and work in Kailua, on the windward side of Oahu, have been licensed since 1996, my husband and I have a small firm, providing landscape architecture design services since 1997.

First: I want to clearly state that I support retaining the same statutory structure and level of specificity in HRS 464-8 currently applied to all disciplines on the Hawaii EASLA Board.

Secondly, I support updating the Hawaii landscape architecture licensing requirements to align with CLARB, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' Uniform Standard for Landscape Architecture Licensure. Modernizing our Hawaii laws will bring consistency with other jurisdictions, making our law more defensible if challenged. The Uniform Standard also offers an additional pathway to licensure with a two-year education. Current Hawaii law does not offer any recognition of a community college program. This may be an opportunity for our Hawaii law to build a foundation so that education and the professional community can provide more opportunities to future candidates.

I appreciate your time and consideration.
Nancy Cassandro, PLA, ASLA, CLARB