

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

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Keohokalole 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 strongly supports this bill's goal of modernizing and aligning Hawaii's landscape architecture licensure requirements with current national standards.

The board respectfully recommends the following amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §464-8(d):

1. Retain the same statutory structure and level of specificity currently applied to engineering, architecture, and surveying in subsections (a) through (c); and
2. Update the landscape architecture licensure requirements to align with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' (CLARB) Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture.

In 2025, the Board's Landscape Architect Licensure Permitted Interaction Group ("PIG") conducted a detailed comparison of CLARB's Uniform Standard and Hawaii licensure requirements (see report attached). The PIG recommended adoption of the Uniform Standards while maintaining requirements for Hawaii's state-specific examinations and work experience under a licensed landscape architect.

The Board's intent is that all disciplines under HRS Chapter 464 continue to be governed in a parallel manner in statute, with qualifications for licensure set out directly in HRS §464-8. At the same time, the landscape architecture provisions should be modernized to reflect the nationally recognized education, experience, and examination framework adopted by CLARB. This approach ensures consistency among the Board's regulated disciplines, preserves clear statutory guidance for applicants, and reinforces

the public protection rationale underlying the Uniform Standard's requirements for accredited education or approved alternative pathways, supervised experience, and successful passage of the landscape architect licensure examination.

Accordingly, the Board respectfully requests that SB 2607 be revised so that HRS §464-8(d) is amended to mirror the structural format of subsections (a) through (c), while incorporating the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard as follows:

Proposed HRS §464-8(d):

- "(d) No person shall be eligible for licensure as a professional landscape architect unless:
- (1) The person is the holder of an unexpired license in good standing issued to the person by any jurisdiction, ~~[domestic or foreign]~~ approved by the Board, to practice landscape architecture ~~[in which the requirements for licensure at the time the person was first licensed are of a standard satisfactory to the board; provided that if the board is in doubt as to whether the standards are satisfactory, or as to whether the holder was required to fully comply with them,]~~ it shall require that the holder successfully pass ~~the national landscape architect licensing examination and]~~ a written examination, prescribed by the board designed to test the holder's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture;
 - (2) The person is the holder of a ~~[master's]~~ degree in landscape architecture from ~~[an institution of higher education approved by the board; is a graduate of]~~ a school or college approved by the board ~~[as of satisfactory standing and has completed a landscape architectural curriculum of four years or more]~~; has had two years of full-time lawful experience in landscape architecture work of a character satisfactory to the board, or part-time lawful experience which the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and has successfully passed the national landscape architect licensing examination and a

written examination, prescribed by the board designed to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture; or

~~[(3) The person is a graduate of a school or college approved by the board as of satisfactory standing, and has completed a landscape architectural curriculum of four years or more; has had three years of full-time lawful experience in landscape architecture work of a character satisfactory to the board, or part-time experience which the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and has successfully passed the national landscape architect licensing examination and a written examination, prescribed by the board designed to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture;~~

~~(4) The person is a graduate of a school or college approved by the board as of satisfactory standing, and has completed a pre-landscape architecture or arts and science curriculum of four years or more; has had five years of full-time lawful experience in landscape architecture work of a character satisfactory to the board, or part-time experience which the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and has successfully passed the national landscape architect licensing examination and a written examination, prescribed by the board designed to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture; or~~

~~(5)]~~ (3) The person has had ~~[twelve]~~ eight years of full-time lawful experience in landscape architecture work of a character satisfactory to the board, or part-time lawful experience which the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and has successfully passed the

national landscape architect licensing examination and a written examination, prescribed by the board designed to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture. The person may earn credit toward the required years of lawful experience through one of the following options:

- (A) If the person holds a degree or certificate in landscape architecture not from a school or college approved by the board, then the person may be credited with one (1) year of experience for each year of schooling completed up to a maximum of four (4) years of credited experience, or
- (B) If the person holds any degree or certificate, then the applicant may be credited with six (6) months of experience for each one (1) year of schooling completed up to a maximum of two (2) years of credited experience.

~~+(6)+~~(4) The applicant shall also certify on the application that the applicant has read, understood, and agrees to comply with the laws and rules that the board determines are required for licensure.

In addition the board may, in its discretion, require additional proof that the applicant is competent to practice professionally, and if the board is not fully satisfied with the results of an examination it may require the applicant to submit additional examination or examinations. Further, No person shall be eligible for licensure as a professional engineer, architect, land surveyor, or landscape architect if the person does not possess a history of honesty, truthfulness, financial integrity, and fair dealing.

This language maintains the “no person shall be eligible” structure and numbered pathways used in HRS §464-8(a) through (c), preserves an endorsement pathway, and incorporates the CLARB Uniform Standard’s core requirements concerning accredited

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Landscape Architects

S.B. 2607

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education or acceptable alternatives, supervised experience in defined practice domains, and passage of the CLARB examination, while retaining Hawaii's existing state specific examination focused on local climatic, environmental, and cultural conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Hawaii State Licensing

Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)

Report on Landscape Architecture Licensing Requirements

Comparison of CLARB (Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Board)

Uniform Standards vs. current Hawaii Requirements

Submitted: October 9th, 2025

Contents:

Report Summary – pages 1-4

Appendix Section – Appendix pages 1-12

Purpose: The Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) was formed to compare and evaluate the CLARB Uniform Standard for Landscape Architect licensing vs. the current Hawaii LA licensing requirements and to provide recommendations to the EASLA Board for its consideration of adopting the Uniform Standard for the licensing of Landscape Architects in the State of Hawaii.

Background: Beginning in the spring of 2022, CLARB recommends that the Uniform Standard be adopted for licensing requirements by each state.

The CLARB Uniform Standard for the licensing of Landscape Architects represents more than five years of discussion, research, analysis, and feedback to create the best approach for achieving defensible, consistent, and equitable licensure requirements. It was developed by a working group consisting of CLARB, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and the Council of Education for Landscape Architecture (CELA) members. In the fall of 2022 at the national meeting of ASLA's Chapter President's Council (CPC) and the Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to support State's adoption of the CLARB Uniform Standards.

In 2022 the ASLA Hawaii Chapter Executive Committee reviewed a presentation of the CLARB Uniform Standard and again in 2025. In August 2025 the ASLA Hawaii Chapter Executive Committee voted in favor of Hawaii adopting the CLARB Uniform Standard.

Comparison: CLARB Uniform Standard vs current Hawaii Licensing Requirements (See chart page 3)

The difference in education and experience requirements do not vary that greatly when a candidate has a Landscape Architecture degree (Master/BSLA/ BLA) from an LAAB (Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board) accredited University program. CLARB research shows that more than 90% of candidates pursuing licensure across the United States have an accredited LA degree. In Hawaii over the past five years, 25 applicants achieved licensure; 64% of those applicants were seeking reciprocity from another state.

CLARB Uniform Standard guidelines list the various pathways for the overall years of education and experience combination to equal 8 years. The most significant differences can be viewed as an improvement to Hawaii's licensing pathways:

- 1) CLARB Uniform Standard provides a recognition of a 2-year education pathway, where Hawaii does not.
- 2) Pathway to licensing without an education degree reduces Hawaii's experience requirements from 12 years to 8 years.

The varying pathways for licensure are important to Hawaii since the state has only one accredited educational program. The University of Hawaii Manoa only recently acquired an LAAB accredited program, the Master of Landscape Architecture, with its first graduating class in 2021. Some landscape architects educated in Hawaii hold degrees in Architecture, Engineering and Tropical Agriculture.

Benefits of the Uniform Standard for Hawaii

- 1) Expands the LA licensure pathways by allowing a 2 yr LA education path. This addresses socio-economic equity.
- 2) Reduces the No Post Secondary Education pathway from 12 years down to 8 years while maintaining the rigor necessary to protect public HSW. This addresses socio-economic equity.
- 3) The Uniform Standard will have significant positive impact on LA license mobility. It will make it easier for emerging professional LAs practicing in other states with family ties in Hawaii to return home.
- 4) A Uniform Standard for LAs will significantly improve LA license defensibility against organized groups advocating for LA license deregulation here in Hawaii and across the United States.
- 5) Simplifies and eliminates applicant confusion of the license requirements here in Hawaii and across jurisdictions throughout the USA.

Adoption of CLARB Uniform Standard Recommendations

Several states have adopted the CLARB Uniform Standard when their states already had similar requirements. Other jurisdictions wanted to add pathways to licensure, clean up their language, improve mobility, reduce administrative burdens on the Boards, and provide clarity to applicants. (See map page 4) CLARB advocates that aligning licensure standards at a national level with the US and Canada increases the defensibility of the licensure requirements and strengthens LA licensing, ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

After reviewing and comparing the CLARB Uniform Standards with Hawaii's current requirements, the Permitted Interaction Group recommends adopting the Uniform Standard. Hawaii's state exam section and experience under a licensed Landscape Architect shall remain the same. For the Hawaii EASLA Board to adopt the CLARB Uniform Standard it would need to go through the legislative process and revise the HRS 464 and HAR 16-115 sections relating only to Landscape Architecture. Sections referring to licensing for Engineering, Architecture, and Surveying are NOT included and will remain the same.

Process

Previous revisions to HRS 464 were submitted by Senator Moriwaki's office in the 2025 Legislative session as SB 1625. This Bill was not heard by committee and did not proceed. The Senator's office suggested that revisions to SB 1625 be repackaged as part of the DCCA Administrative Bill and submitted through the Governor's office for approval. Revisions are proposed as per the Board's Letter of Response dated July 16, 2025. (See Appendix pages 10-12)

In addition to updating the Landscape Architecture licensing requirements, it should also be noted that the PIG supports the decoupling of the testing and licensing process. This measure should also be included in the DCCA package for the 2026 legislative session. This will help clarify and streamline the application process for new candidates.

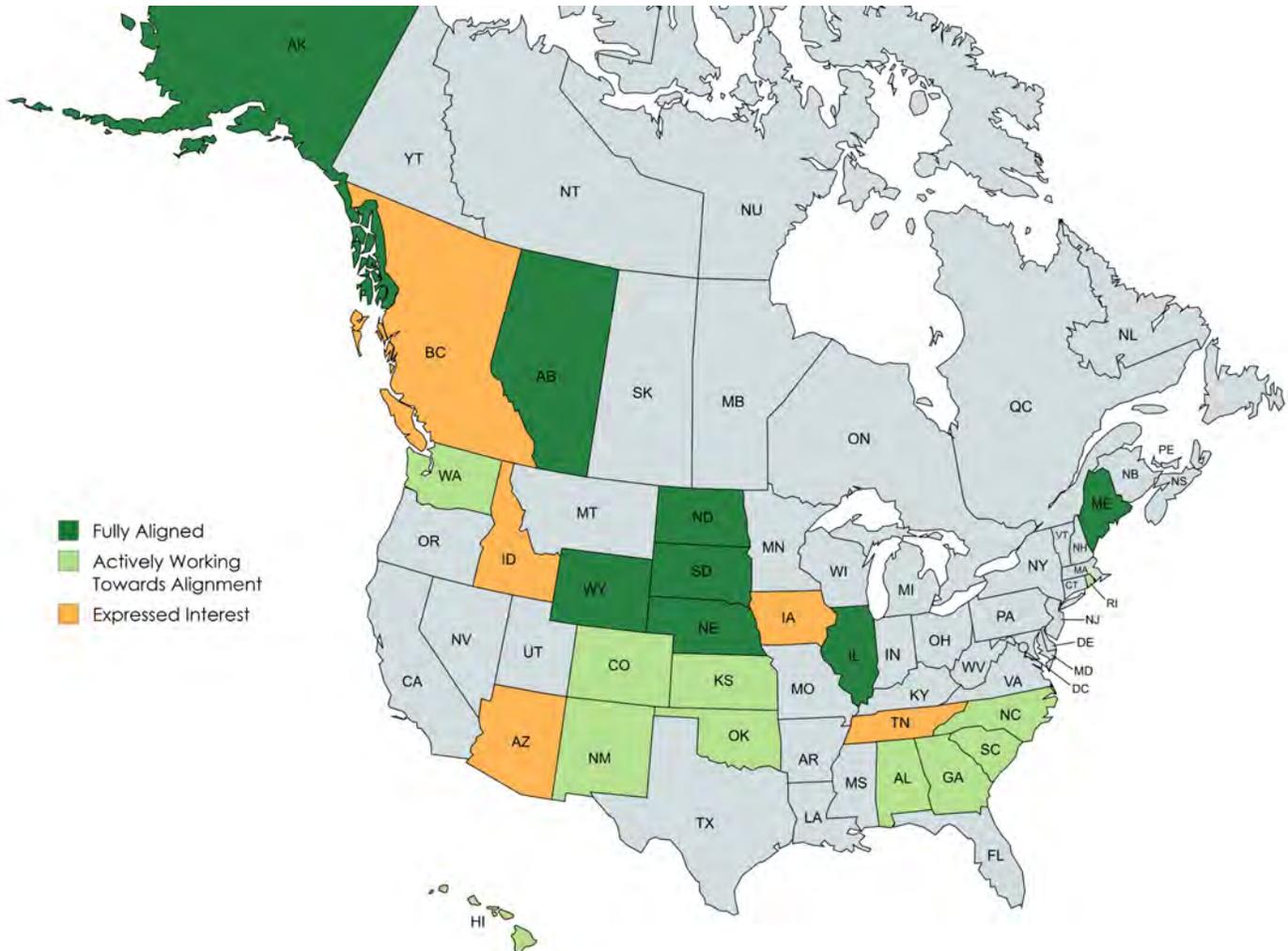
Comparison Spreadsheet

CLARB Uniform Standard Recommendations vs. Hawaii Current Requirements for Education and Experience to qualify for licensing review. It should be noted that Hawaii's State Exam section and the requirement for experience under a licensed landscape architect is recommended to remain the same.

	A	B	C	D
1		CLARB Uniform Std	HAWAII	DIFFERENCE
2	LAAB-LAAC-accredited LA degree	6 yrs max credit for accredited education in LA; 2 yrs experience req'd. There is no distinction between an accredited BLA or MLA, both require +2 years of experience	BLA or MLA from board-approved (LAAB accredited) program +3 yrs experience , or both BLA and MLA from board-approved (LAAB accredited) program(s) + 2 years experience	HAWAII requires an additional 1 yr of work experience (3 years) for an accredited BLA or MLA, CLARB Uniform Standard does not specifically address accredited BLA/MLA degree holders. If you have both an accredited BLA and MLA +2 years of experience required.
3	4-year non-accredited LA degree	4 yrs max credit for LA education; 4 yrs experience needed	4 yr undergraduate degree in LA from a non-accredited school or college, + 5 yrs experience	HAWAII: 1 additional yr experience needed
4	2-year LA certificate	2 yrs max credit for LA education; 6 yrs experience needed	HAWAII does not recognize a 2 yr (community college) LA certificate, therefore the no post-secondary education path would apply requiring 12 yrs of experience	Hawaii: No 2 year educational pathway. 12 yrs of experience
5	5-year Architecture or Engineering degree	2 yrs max credit for alternative education; 6 yrs experience needed	Architecture/Engineering undergraduate degrees are not addressed in Hawaii, therefore, the 4 year bachelor's degree in unrelated arts/sciences curriculum would apply; + 5 yrs experience	CLARB: 1 additional yr experience needed. HAWAII does not differentiate architecture or engineering degree from other art/science degree.
6	4-year Bachelor's degree in Art	2 yrs max credit for alternative education; 6 yrs experience needed	4 yr undergraduate degree in unrelated field arts/sciences curriculum; + 5 yrs experience	CLARB: 1 additional yr experience needed.
7	No completed post-secondary education	No credit earned; 8 yrs experience	12 yrs experience	HAWAII: 4 additional yrs experience needed
8				
9	Experience	under supervision of licensed LA or licensed affiliated professional	under supervision of licensed LA	Hawaii: under supervision of licensed LA Only

- Acronyms:
- LA – Landscape Architecture
 - LAAB – Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board
 - CLARB – Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Board
 - MLA – Master of Landscape Architecture (graduate university degree)
 - BLA – Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (undergraduate university degree)

Graphic illustrating states alignment with CLARB Uniform Standard across United States and Canada as of September 2025.



APPENDIX Table of Contents

SB 1625 Submitted 2025 Legislative Session pages 2 – 9

Board of EASLA Letter to Senator dated July 16, 2025

Request For Board Comments to SB 1625 pages 10-12

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii board of
2 professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape
3 architects (board) previously voted in favor of adopting a
4 uniform standard for landscape architecture licensure developed
5 in 2022 by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration
6 Boards (CLARB), of which the board is a member. CLARB is a
7 nonprofit organization that works to protect the public's
8 health, safety, and welfare by establishing and promoting
9 professional licensure standards for landscape architects. Its
10 members are the licensure boards across the United States and
11 Canada.

12 The legislature further finds that adopting uniform
13 standards for licensure would give the board the ability to
14 reduce the years of experience required for most applicants
15 seeking licensure while continuing to ensure the protection of
16 the public and environment throughout the State. Additionally,



1 the Hawaii chapter of the American Society of Landscape
2 Architects supports adoption of these uniform standards.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to adopt uniform
4 standards for licensing requirements for the profession of
5 landscape architecture to create consistent requirements across
6 jurisdictions, improve mobility for landscape architects, and
7 provide increased access to the profession.

8 SECTION 2. Section 464-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

10 "(d) No person shall be eligible for licensure as a
11 professional landscape architect unless:

12 ~~[(1) The person is the holder of an unexpired license~~
13 ~~issued to the person by any jurisdiction, domestic or~~
14 ~~foreign, in which the requirements for licensure at~~
15 ~~the time the person was first licensed are of a~~
16 ~~standard satisfactory to the board; provided that if~~
17 ~~the board is in doubt as to whether the standards are~~
18 ~~satisfactory, or as to whether the holder was required~~
19 ~~to fully comply with them, it shall require that the~~
20 ~~holder successfully pass the national landscape~~
21 ~~architect licensing examination and a written~~



1 ~~examination, prescribed by the board designed to test~~
2 ~~the holder's knowledge of the State's climatic~~
3 ~~conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land~~
4 ~~use ordinance and special management area~~
5 ~~requirements, and cultural and historical conditions~~
6 ~~affecting landscape architecture;~~
7 (2) ~~The person is the holder of a master's degree in~~
8 ~~landscape architecture from an institution of higher~~
9 ~~education approved by the board; is a graduate of a~~
10 ~~school or college approved by the board as of~~
11 ~~satisfactory standing and has completed a landscape~~
12 ~~architectural curriculum of four years or more; has~~
13 ~~had two years of full-time lawful experience in~~
14 ~~landscape architecture work of a character~~
15 ~~satisfactory to the board, or part-time experience~~
16 ~~which the board finds to be the equivalent thereof;~~
17 ~~and has successfully passed the national landscape~~
18 ~~architect licensing examination and a written~~
19 ~~examination, prescribed by the board designed to test~~
20 ~~the person's knowledge of the State's climatic~~
21 ~~conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land~~



1 ~~use ordinance and special management area~~
2 ~~requirements, and cultural and historical conditions~~
3 ~~affecting landscape architecture;~~
4 ~~(3) The person is a graduate of a school or college~~
5 ~~approved by the board as of satisfactory standing, and~~
6 ~~has completed a landscape architectural curriculum of~~
7 ~~four years or more; has had three years of full-time~~
8 ~~lawful experience in landscape architecture work of a~~
9 ~~character satisfactory to the board, or part-time~~
10 ~~experience which the board finds to be the equivalent~~
11 ~~thereof; and has successfully passed the national~~
12 ~~landscape architect licensing examination and a~~
13 ~~written examination, prescribed by the board designed~~
14 ~~to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic~~
15 ~~conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land~~
16 ~~use ordinance and special management area~~
17 ~~requirements, and cultural and historical conditions~~
18 ~~affecting landscape architecture;~~
19 ~~(4) The person is a graduate of a school or college~~
20 ~~approved by the board as of satisfactory standing, and~~
21 ~~has completed a pre-landscape architecture or arts and~~



1 ~~science curriculum of four years or more; has had five~~
2 ~~years of full-time lawful experience in landscape~~
3 ~~architecture work of a character satisfactory to the~~
4 ~~board, or part-time experience which the board finds~~
5 ~~to be the equivalent thereof; and has successfully~~
6 ~~passed the national landscape architect licensing~~
7 ~~examination and a written examination, prescribed by~~
8 ~~the board designed to test the person's knowledge of~~
9 ~~the State's climatic conditions, native plants and~~
10 ~~native ecosystems, land use ordinance and special~~
11 ~~management area requirements, and cultural and~~
12 ~~historical conditions affecting landscape~~
13 ~~architecture; or~~

14 ~~(5) The person has had twelve years of full-time lawful~~
15 ~~experience in landscape architecture work of a~~
16 ~~character satisfactory to the board, or part-time~~
17 ~~experience which the board finds to be the equivalent~~
18 ~~thereof; and has successfully passed the national~~
19 ~~landscape architect licensing examination and a~~
20 ~~written examination, prescribed by the board designed~~
21 ~~to test the person's knowledge of the State's climatic~~



1 ~~conditions, native plants and native ecosystems, land~~
2 ~~use ordinance and special management area~~
3 ~~requirements, and cultural and historical conditions~~
4 ~~affecting landscape architecture.~~

5 ~~(6)]~~ (1) The person satisfies the requirements for licensure by
6 endorsement prescribed by the board; or

7 (2) The person is the holder of a degree in landscape
8 architecture from a school or college approved by the
9 board and has satisfied the examination and lawful
10 experience requirements prescribed by the board.

11 The applicant shall also certify on the application that the
12 applicant has read, understood, and agrees to comply with the
13 laws and rules that the board determines are required for
14 licensure.

15 In addition to the foregoing requirements, the board, in
16 its discretion, may also require additional proof that the
17 applicant is competent to practice professionally, and whenever
18 the board is not fully satisfied from the results of an
19 examination that any applicant is competent to practice
20 professionally, it may give the applicant a further examination
21 or examinations.



1 No person shall be eligible for licensure as a professional
2 engineer, architect, land surveyor, or landscape architect if
3 the person does not possess a history of honesty, truthfulness,
4 financial integrity, and fair dealing."

5 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. P. ...', is written over a horizontal line.



S.B. NO. 1625

Report Title:

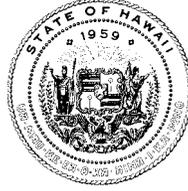
Landscape Architecture Licensing Requirements

Description:

Adopts a uniform standard for landscape architecture licensure developed by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
P.O. BOX 3469
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
cca.hawaii.gov/pvl

July 16, 2025

Senator Moriwaki
c/o Alex Ozawa
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

VIA EMAIL ONLY: a.ozawa@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Request for Board Comments on S.B. 1625, RELATING TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Aloha Senator Moriwaki,

Thank you for reaching out to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects ("Board") for comments regarding S.B. 1625, Relating to Landscape Architects.

The purpose of this bill is to adopt a uniform standard for landscape architecture licensure developed by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards ("CLARB"). S.B. 1625 was introduced during the 2025 Legislative Session, but was not heard by Committee.

The Board appreciates the intent of S.B. 1625 and respectfully offers the following comments based on discussion of the bill at the Board's February 6, 2025 meeting:

1. Although the purpose of the bill states that the measure would adopt the CLARB Uniform Standard for landscape architect licensure, the amendments proposed by the bill do not adopt the Uniform Standard.

Instead, as written, it would remove the specific education, exam, and experience requirements from Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §464-8(d). In the absence of

specific requirements, the Board would be responsible for promulgating administrative rules to establish the education, exam, and experience requirements.

2. **The Board expresses concerns that, as written, the bill would eliminate the current “no degree” pathway to landscape architect licensure.** This would restrict individuals from licensure who do not have an accredited landscape architect degree, but who may be otherwise qualified to practice upon evaluation of 11 years of lawful experience in the profession.
3. The Board expresses further concerns that the language of the bill is unclear as to whether the current requirement for landscape architect applicants to pass the Hawaii State Plant Materials Exam would be maintained.

The Board emphasizes the importance of this jurisdictional exam given Hawaii’s unique climatic conditions, native plants and ecosystems, land use ordinance and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture.

The Board emphasizes that each of the three pillars to licensure – education, exam, and experience – are all integral to ensuring that landscape architect licensees in Hawaii are sufficiently qualified to safely and competently practice in the State.

If the purpose of the bill is to allow the Board more flexibility in determining the appropriate education, exam, and experience requirements for landscape architect licensure, the Board respectfully requests that amendments consider the CLARB Uniform Standard in principle, but do not adopt the Uniform Standard outright. This would allow the Board to consider State-specific needs for our licensees, the public, and the practice settings affected by landscape architects.

The Board respectfully proposes the following language to (1) make expressly clear that both endorsement and examination licensure requirements include passing the State exam; and (2) providing a pathway for no education/experience-only licensure; while also making clear that the Board may determine the appropriate experience and education requirements in both pathways, similar to the existing laws and rules:

Section 464-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes:

(d) No person shall be eligible for licensure as a professional landscape architect unless:

1. The person satisfies the requirements for licensure by endorsement prescribed by the board, which shall include but is not limited to the appropriate education and lawful experience requirements determined by the board and the requirement to successfully pass a State examination prescribed by the board that tests the person’s knowledge of the State’s climatic conditions, native plants and ecosystems, land use ordinances and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture; or
2. The person is the holder of a degree in landscape architecture from a school or college approved by the board and has satisfied satisfies the requirements for licensure by the examination and lawful experience requirements prescribed by the

board, which shall include but is not limited to the appropriate education and lawful experience requirements determined by the board and the requirement to successfully pass a State examination prescribed by the board that tests the person's knowledge of the State's climatic conditions, native plants and ecosystems, land use ordinances and special management area requirements, and cultural and historical conditions affecting landscape architecture.

Pursuant to HRS §92-2.5, the Board intends to form a permitted interaction group ("PIG") at its upcoming August 14, 2025 meeting to discuss the CLARB Uniform Standard in relation to the Board's current laws and rules.

The Board respectfully requests that it be allowed to submit a report to the Senator's office following its December 11, 2025 meeting to provide further input on S.B. 1625. This would allow the Board additional time to continue researching this matter for its best appropriateness to protecting public health, safety, and welfare.

Please feel free to reach out to the Board's Executive Officer at (808) 586-2702 or by emailing EASLA@dcca.hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on S.B. 1625.

Mahalo,



Sheena Choy
Executive Officer



March 2, 2026

TO: Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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**, 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 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 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. 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.

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



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March 2, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Keohokalole, Vice Chairperson Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

On behalf of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), I am writing to express our **strong support for SB 2607**, introduced by Senators Moriwaki, Chang, and Hashimoto. This legislation would clarify and align the pathways for licensure as a landscape architect by authorizing the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects (Board) to adopt CLARB's model licensure framework, the **Uniform Standard**.

The Uniform Standard is the result of over five years of comprehensive research, stakeholder input, and rigorous analysis. It establishes clear, consistent, and defensible licensure requirements that enhance professional mobility, expand access to licensure by removing unnecessary barriers, and continue to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare, as well as the diverse environments throughout Hawaii.

CLARB's mission is to protect the public through the establishment and promotion of professional licensure standards for landscape architecture. Our membership includes the licensure boards across the United States, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and Canada. We are also committed to defending and strengthening landscape architectural licensure as a means of upholding the integrity of both the built and natural environments.

Currently, Hawaii differentiates between applicants with accredited undergraduate and graduate degrees in landscape architecture. The proposed legislation would establish a consistent standard requiring two years of experience for all applicants holding an accredited degree, regardless of degree level. This is supported by CLARB examination data showing no meaningful difference in pass rates based on degree type.

This bill would also create a clear pathway to licensure for individuals without an accredited degree in landscape architecture and reduce the current 12-year experience requirement with no degree to align with CLARB's 8-year requirement in the Uniform Standard.

Overall, this proposal aligns Hawaii with national standards, clarifies multiple pathways to licensure, maintains the state-specific examination requirement in addition to the LARE, and continues to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

For additional information about CLARB or the Uniform Standard, please feel free to contact Zach Druga, CLARB's Manager of Member Relations and Advocacy, at zdruga@clarb.org.

Respectfully,



1900 Reston Metro Plaza
Suite 600
Reston, Virginia 20190
571-432-0332
www.clarb.org

Matt Miller
Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), Chief Executive Officer



March 3, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), I am pleased to express our strong support for SB 2607 and the proposed amendments by the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects. This legislation aligns Hawaii's regulatory framework with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' (CLARB) Uniform Licensure Standard (Uniform Standard), modernizing the profession's education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure.

Founded in 1899, ASLA represents more than 16,000 landscape architecture members nationwide. Licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, landscape architects plan, design, and manage the natural and built environment around us—developing community masterplans, parks, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, green stormwater systems, and much more. Through this work, landscape architects safeguard public health and safety, protect vital natural resources, and foster active lifestyles. The public is best served when qualified licensed professionals perform these services.

The Board's proposed updates bring Hawaii's statutes in line with nationally recognized qualification criteria, providing applicants with a consistent and transparent path to licensure. Standardizing the post-graduation experience requirement at two years for all accredited landscape architecture degree holders affirms that both undergraduate and graduate programs provide adequate preparation for practice, a conclusion supported by CLARB's national examination data showing consistent pass rates across all accredited degree types. ASLA also supports modernizing the alternative experience-based pathway by reducing the required experience from 12 years to 8 years, as outlined in the Uniform Standard. This aligns Hawaii with the Uniform Standard while maintaining the profession's rigor and commitment to public protection, effectively expanding access to the profession for qualified candidates who may be unable to pursue a formal degree from an accredited program but may otherwise aspire to enter the profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of SB 2607. Please feel free to contact me at brawls@asla.org or 202-216-2370 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Rawls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley Rawls
Director, State Government Affairs

LATE



March 3, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), I am pleased to express our strong support for SB 2607 and the proposed amendments by the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects. This legislation aligns Hawaii's regulatory framework with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' (CLARB) Uniform Licensure Standard (Uniform Standard), modernizing the profession's education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure.

Founded in 1899, ASLA represents more than 16,000 landscape architecture members nationwide. Licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, landscape architects plan, design, and manage the natural and built environment around us—developing community masterplans, parks, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, green stormwater systems, and much more. Through this work, landscape architects safeguard public health and safety, protect vital natural resources, and foster active lifestyles. The public is best served when qualified licensed professionals perform these services.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of SB 2607. Please feel free to contact me at brawls@asla.org or 202-216-2370 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Rawls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley Rawls
Director, State Government Affairs

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Carol Fukunaga

March 2, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 2607 Relating to Landscape Architects

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

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 with amendments proposed by the Hawaii Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA) during the committee hearing.

SB2607 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.

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 Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Carol Kukunaga

March 2, 2026

Testimony for SB 2607 Relating to Landscape Architects

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB2607 with amendments proposed by the Hawaii Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA) during the committee hearing. 1) I support retaining the same statutory structure and level of specificity currently applied to all disciplines on the Hawaii EASLA Board. 2) I support updating the landscape architecture licensing requirements to align with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' Uniform Standard for Landscape Architecture Licensure.

I am testifying in my personal capacity as a licensed Landscape Architect and small business owner, living and working in Hawaii since 1996.

One of my core beliefs is to provide value to the community in which I live, work and recreate. For the past six years, I have served on the Executive Committee for the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (2 terms as President) and am currently the Chair of the Hawaii Chapter DT Woolsey Scholarship Fund, providing financial assistance for residents of Hawaii seeking a degree in Landscape Architecture. I currently serve as a landscape architect representative and am Vice Chair on the Hawaii State Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (EASLA), and am currently an Urban Design representative as a landscape architect on the Honolulu Mayor's advisory Commission for Culture and the Arts (COCA).

SB2607 proposes amendments to HRS 464-8(d), Qualifications for Licensure as a Professional Landscape Architect. The amendments would align Hawaii's Landscape Architects Licensing Requirements with the *Uniform Standard (US) for Landscape Architecture Licensing* developed by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), a national organization which Hawaii's EASLA Board is a member.

One key pathway to licensure that *CLARB US* offers that would be beneficial to Hawaii's landscape industry is their recognition of a two-year Landscape Architecture education plus six years of experience under a licensed landscape architect. 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 professional organizations can also reach out to future candidates from underserved communities.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Nancy Cassandro, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
Umemoto Cassandro Design Corporation
Kailua, Hawaii

SB-2607

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:17:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

TO INCLUDE EXPERIENCE AS A BOTANIEST AND/OR ARBORIST

2607 SB RELATING TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

Hawai'i State Legislature
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Carol Fukunaga

February 27, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 2607 Relating to Landscape Architects

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Judith Stilgenbauer. I am a Professor and Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Architecture and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The University of Hawaii's MLA program is the only accredited landscape architecture degree in the State. I am testifying in my personal capacity, as a subject matter expert.

I am writing in enthusiastic support of SB 2607 Relating to Landscape Architects, with any amendments that might be presented by EASLA during the committee hearing.

SB 2607 proposes amendments to HRS § 464-8(d), Qualifications for Licensure as a Professional Landscape Architect. These changes would align Hawaii's landscape architects licensing requirements with the *Uniform Standard for Landscape Architecture Licensure* developed by the national Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). The State EASLA Board previously voted in favor of these uniform requirements, established by CLARB in 2022.

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, landscape architecture educator, and landscape architecture program director, I believe this legislation is important because it would give EASLA the ability to reduce the years of experience required for most applicants seeking landscape architectural licensure in Hawai'i—including UH's MLA students and alumni—while continuing to ensure the safety and protection of the public and the State's environments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Judith Stilgenbauer, FASLA, Professor
Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program & Graduate Chair
School of Architecture
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Hawaii State Senate Office
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Monday, March 2, 2026

Subject: **SB 2607 Relating to Landscape Architects**

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Kyle Sasaki. I am a licensed Landscape Architect in Hawaii and teach part time at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Architecture. I also am a former President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

I am pleased to provide you with this letter in support of SB 2607 with revisions proposed by the Hawaii Professional Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (the Board). This bill proposes amendments to HRS § 464-8(d), Qualifications for Licensure as a Professional Landscape Architect. These changes would align Hawaii's Landscape Architects Licensing Requirements with the Uniform Standard for Landscape Architecture Licensure developed by CLARB. The EASLA Board previously voted in favor of these new requirements established by CLARB in 2022.

The proposed language updates the statutory language surrounding qualifications for licensure of landscape architects. This language will also give the Board the ability to modify the years of experience required for most applicants seeking licensure while continuing to ensure the protection of the public and environments throughout Hawaii.

Adopting uniform standards for licensure will create consistent requirements across jurisdictions, improve mobility for landscape architects, and provide increased access to the profession. Additionally, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and its Hawaii Chapter (HASLA) support SB 2607 and the adoption of a uniform standard.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Sasaki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle Sasaki, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Senior Landscape Architect
Studio Kipuka