RES26-038
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 82

*ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES)

***ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Mar 3, 2026 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leimomi Khan	leimomikhan@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 26, 2026 @ 05:51 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Resolution No. 26-38, CD1, confirming the appointment of Raynard C. Soon to serve on the Clean Water and Natural Lands Advisory Commission.

Mr. Raynard C. Soon brings decades of experience in land use planning, public administration, and resource stewardship in Hawai'i. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Solutions Pacific, where he has led strategic planning and policy initiatives involving land management, infrastructure, and community development across the state.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Master's degree in City Planning from Harvard University. His academic training in planning and land management provides a strong foundation for evaluating conservation acquisitions, watershed protection strategies, and long-range sustainability initiatives.

Mr. Soon previously served as Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, where he oversaw the management of trust lands with significant agricultural, cultural, and environmental value. In that capacity, he worked at the intersection of land stewardship, infrastructure planning, beneficiary interests, and long-term resource protection — responsibilities closely aligned with the purposes of the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund.

He was also appointed to the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, where he contributed to national policy discussions concerning the preservation of historically and culturally significant sites. This experience directly supports the Commission's mandate to protect lands of historic and cultural importance.

In addition, Mr. Soon has served on the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, participating in policy deliberations related to water resource management, watershed protection, and long-term water security — central priorities of the Clean Water and Natural Lands program.

The responsibilities of the Commission require careful judgment, strategic thinking, and a deep understanding of how land conservation, water protection, agriculture, and cultural preservation intersect. Mr. Soon's leadership experience at the state, federal, and local levels makes him exceptionally well qualified to help guide thoughtful and responsible stewardship of the Fund.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Council to adopt Resolution No. 26-38, CD1, and confirm Raynard C. Soon's

appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Leimomi Khan

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lea Hong	lea.hong@tpl.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Trust for Public Land	Support	Feb 27, 2026 @ 12:00 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Elizabeth Reilly	elizabeth@lhkh.org	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Livable Maunalua Hui	Support	Mar 2, 2026 @ 05:42 PM

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TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-38
Honolulu City Council,
Committee on Energy, Environment and Sustainability
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 1:00 p.m., City Council Chamber

Aloha e Chair Weyer and Members of the Committee,

Trust for Public Land (TPL) strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Raynard Soon to the Clean Water & Natural Lands Commission ("the Commission").

Mr. Soon is a respected planning professional whom I have known for over 30 years beginning with his role as Director/Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, member the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and later as Chief of Staff to the Mayor in early years of the Clean Water & Natural Lands program. He is a true public servant, has the utmost integrity, and cares deeply for the ʻāina.

I apologize that I am unable to attend the hearing in person or on Zoom due to conflicting schedule commitments. TPL strongly supports Mr. Soon's nomination to the Commission and thanks him for his willingness to serve.

Respectfully,

Lea Hong
Associate Vice President
Hawaiʻi State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

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March 1, 2026

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Committee on Energy, Environment & Sustainability
Chair Matt Weyer
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
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Andria Tupola
https://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/testimony

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee on Energy, Environment & Sustainability Members,

RE: Resolution 23-68, Ray Soon to the Clean Water & Natural Lands Advisory Commission – SUPPORT

We are pleased to express our enthusiastic support for Ray Soon's appointment to the Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission. Over the years, Ray has shown steadfast dedication to our lāhui (community) and approached the kuleana (responsibility) of stewarding ʻāina (land) with fairness and balanced judgment. Our collaboration with Ray during Livable Maunalua Hui's work on acquiring the Kaiwi Mauka lands highlighted his leadership in essential areas such as organizational health, community engagement, mālama ʻāina (caring for the land), and restoration. Ray impressed us by personally hiking the lands under review, demonstrating his belief that firsthand ʻike (knowledge) is crucial before making decisions. This practice resonated strongly with us, as we all share a deep respect for the kuleana of protecting and caring for Hawaiʻi's natural resources.

We believe Ray will be an excellent addition to the Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission, and we respectfully ask you to carefully consider his candidacy. Mahalo nui loa for your time and attention.

Me ke aloha nui,

Elizabeth Reilly,

Elizabeth C. Reilly

Founder/ President