

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Office of the Chairperson
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 22, 2026

State of Hawaii
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REAPPOINT BIN C. LI AND APPOINT CHARLES R. TAYLOR AND WILLIAM J. WYNHOFF AS ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICERS FOR THE CIVIL RESOURCE VIOLATIONS SYSTEM (CRVS) OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS

I. ACTIONS REQUESTED:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (hereinafter the “Department”), Office of the Chairperson, hereby submits a request for the approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (hereinafter the “Board”) to reappoint Mr. Bin C. Li and appoint Mr. Charles R. Taylor and Mr. William J. Wynhoff as Administrative Hearing Officers for the Civil Resource Violations System (CRVS) of the Department for a term of two years, effective from May 22, 2026 through May 21, 2028, pursuant to §13-1-57, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR).

II. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Department formally launched the CRVS in March 2009 for the purpose of implementing Chapter 199D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 13-1, Subchapter 7, HAR. This system is designed to process minor natural resource violations of the Department’s laws and regulations.

Currently, several DLNR divisions participate and are active in the CRVS enforcement, including the Divisions of Aquatic Resources, Forestry and Wildlife, Boating and Ocean Recreations, Engineering, State Parks, Conservation and Resource Enforcement, and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands.

The CRVS process allows respondents in certain civil resource violation cases (where an administrative fine has been prescribed by law) to pay a fine to resolve their cases. Fine amounts are prescribed by the Board in administrative sanctions schedules submitted for approval by individual divisions. Respondents may also request for mitigation of their fine amounts or contest the violation notices. When a respondent answers a CRVS notice by waiving any contest to the notice, but requests mitigation of the sanctions, a hearing officer examines the mitigating circumstances and makes a final decision on the request. When an answer contests the violation, a hearing officer conducts the resulting contested case hearing.

Over the past years, the Board has appointed Misters Bin C. Li, Thomas Rack and Ian Hirokawa as CRVS hearing officers. Mr. Rack and Mr. Hirokawa are no longer associated with the Department. The recent departure of Mr. Hirokawa created the need for appointing at least one more hearing officer for the system.

In response to this need and the ongoing expansion of the CRVS system, the Chairperson now nominates Mr. Bin Li, and two additional CRVS hearing officers, Mr. Charles Taylor and Mr. William Wynhoff, to serve as the CRVS hearing officers in the next two years. Information on the nominees is provided below.

Appointment of CRVS hearings officers must be conducted by the Board at a Sunshine Law meeting. §13-1-57, HAR, provides that

“Administrative hearing officers serving under this subchapter shall be nominated by the chairperson and appointed by the board at its meetings for a term of up to two years and may be removed with or without cause in the same manner or by expiration of appointment.”

III. CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT:

A. Bin C. Li

Mr. Li is a graduate of the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law (1998), and licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii. He has been employed by the Department as its Administrative Proceedings Coordinator since May 2007. On his current post, he has been responsible for the formation and operation of the CRVS, as well as the conduct of the Department’s other administrative and rulemaking proceedings. He has been serving as the CRVS program manager since March 2009 and as a CRVS hearing officer since July 22, 2009.

Prior to this appointment, he was a Contract Specialist of the Department from January 2006 through April 2007. Before joining the Department, he had over four years of experience in civil litigation and administrative proceedings. He also serves as an Arbitrator under the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, appointed by the Hawaii State Supreme Court in 2004.

B. Charles R. Taylor

Mr. Charles “Charlie” Taylor is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law (2011), where he earned both an Environmental Law Certificate and a Graduate Certificate in Ocean Policy. He has spent nearly two decades working at the intersection of marine resource management, administrative law, and enforcement. Mr. Taylor currently serves as a Program Specialist with the Hawai‘i DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources, managing BLNR enforcement actions involving coral damage—such as vessel groundings and anchor strikes—as well as the Division’s response to a wide range of fisheries and marine resource violations.

Mr. Taylor’s background includes a clerkship with the Hawai‘i First Circuit Court, a Legal Fellowship with DAR, and field-level regulatory compliance work as a federal fisheries observer

for the National Marine Fisheries Service. He also brings valuable on-the-ground experience from three years as a U.S. Peace Corps Coastal Resource Management Volunteer, where he helped establish marine protected areas and supported local enforcement initiatives in the Philippines. Together, Mr. Taylor's legal training, fisheries science experience, and hands-on enforcement work uniquely qualify him to serve effectively as a Hearings Officer for DLNR.

C. William J. Wynhoff

Mr. William J. Wynhoff is licensed to practice law in Hawaii and admitted to appear in all Hawaii courts as well as the Ninth Circuit of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He is an instructor for the National Association of Attorneys General and serves on the Hawaii Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board and Board of Bar Examiners. He is an arbitrator for the Hawaii State Certified Arbitration Program (Lemon Law), an eviction hearing officer for HPHA, and a CAAP mediator. He has regularly served as a BLNR-appointed hearing officer in contested cases.

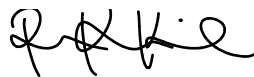
From 2001 to 2021, Mr. Wynhoff was a Deputy Attorney General advising the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources

1. Reappoint Mr. Bin C. Li as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Civil Resource Violations System of the Department for a term of two years, effective from May 22, 2026 through May 21, 2028;
2. Appoint Mr. Charles R. Taylor as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Civil Resource Violations System of the Department for a term of two years, effective from May 22, 2026 through May 21, 2028;
3. Appoint Mr. William J. Wynhoff as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Civil Resource Violations System of the Department for a term of two years, effective from May 22, 2026 through May 21, 2028.

Respectfully submitted,



RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
First Deputy
Department of Land and Natural Resources

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dawn N.S. Chang', written over a horizontal line.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources