

## **Hariru Smith**

### **Introduction about myself:**

Kia ora, ko Hariru Smith tōku ingoa i tipu ake au ki ngā rekereke o ōku kaumātua ki Te Whakarewarewatanga o te ope taua a Wāhiao, ki Rotorua. He Te Arawa, he Te Rarawa tēnei e mihi ana. He iti raukura hoki tēnei nō Te Aho Matua, nō Te Kura kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu. Ko tāku tau tuatahi tēnei ki te whare wananga o Aoraki, e whai ana i taku tohu Sport and Recreational management.

### **Why I would love to be the Pou Whakawhenua for Te Awhioraki 2027?**

If I wasn't to become Tumuaiki Takirua, I would love the opportunity to be the Pou Whakawhenua of Te Awhioraki because Te Ao Māori is not simply something I participate in, it is a huge part of who I am. I live and breathe our language, culture, tikanga and mātauranga Māori, and I want to use my knowledge and experience to strengthen the Māori identity and presence within Te Awhioraki.

Coming from a Kura Kaupapa Māori background and being fluent in te reo Māori, I would bring a strong Māori whakaaro and kaupapa Māori perspective to the executive. I believe I can help ensure tikanga Māori is upheld, respected and embedded across our association and create Māori spaces where tauira feel connected, welcomed and proud of who they are.

I would also be a confident representative and spokesperson for Te Awhioraki at Māori events, using te reo Māori to represent our association with mana and confidence. I can support our social media, communications, and other kai mahi by helping with te reo Māori, sentence structures and correct use of kupu.

My kapa haka background would also allow me to contribute to performances and preparation for Te Huinga Tauira Māori. Most importantly, I want to encourage more karakia, tikanga and te reo Māori within our spaces. I want to help build an association where our tauira Māori feel seen, heard and proud to be Māori.