

TESTIMONY
GM 258
LATE

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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 19, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Water and Land Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM 258 – Director of Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, ABBEY SETH MAYER

Dear Senator Hee:

As the OHA Trustee for Moloka'i and Lana'i, I am pleased to write this letter supporting the confirmation of Abbey S. Mayer as the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii. I encourage you to confirm Mr. Mayer for his commitment to public service, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian alike.

I have known Mr. Mayer personally for two-years, since he was appointed as the Executive Director of Ke Aupuni Lokahi – the non-profit organization administering the Moloka'i Enterprise Community. Mr. Mayer's duty for the past two years has been to lead the organization's oversight of Molokai's 10-year revitalization plan as part of its Enterprise Community designation, received in 1998.

The work of the Enterprise Community is community-based and implemented, and involves extensive work with multi-tiered, interconnected projects that require sincerity, intelligence and creativity, all of which are characteristics Mr. Mayer asserts.

Mr. Mayer is the lead project coordinator for all 22 priority projects of the Molokai Enterprise Community, which has established numerous partnerships. As project coordinator he also administers and oversees all fiscal activities including but not limited to, implementing internal controls, preparing for and supporting annual audits, and forming annual budgets.

Mr. Mayer's successful tenure with the Molokai Enterprise Community demonstrates his understanding of the delicate task of balancing economic growth and development with the need to retain cultural and natural places that make Hawaii unique.

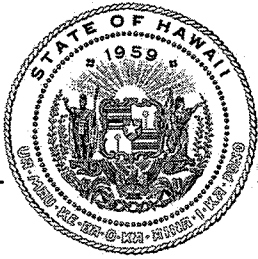
Again I ask for your support in confirming Mr. Mayer as the Director of the Office of Planning, I believe he is qualified, committed, and dedicated to successfully carry out the State's programs, policies and priorities.

Thank you for this opportunity to express this opinion on your confirmation decision, again I strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey Mayer as Director of the Office of Planning. Please feel free to contact me at 594-1874 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Colette U. Machado

Colette Machado
Trustee, Moloka'i and Lana'i
Chairperson, Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

LATE TESTIMONY

in consideration of

GM 258

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ABBEY SETH MAYER
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-06-2010.**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

I support the confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Mayer has the personal qualities, skills and experience that will provide for effective leadership for the Office of Planning.

Mr. Mayer possesses long-range, strategic and community-based planning skills. He served as Executive Director of the Ke 'Aupuni Lokahi (KAL), the Molokai Enterprise Community for two years. This organization is tasked with implementing a strategic plan for the island of Molokai. The plan includes 28 projects and addresses all sectors of life on Molokai. The Office of Planning is charged with conducting comprehensive, long-range and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic and social needs of Hawaii's people. Mr. Mayer has the planning skills to carry out the core mission of the Office of Planning.

The Office of Planning also balances economic development and the environment and must reconcile conflicting goals in developing policy. In his work with the Molokai Enterprise Community, Mr. Mayer has worked to improve all sectors of life on Molokai with projects undertaken in natural resource protection, economic development, health care, affordable housing, historic preservation and agriculture. He has demonstrated a balanced perspective which will serve him well as director of the Office of Planning.

Another major function of the Office of Planning is to facilitate coordinated and cooperative planning and policy development among State agencies and between the State, county and federal governments. This translates into the building of partnerships. In his work with the Molokai Enterprise Community, Mr. Mayer developed partnerships with many community groups in order to carry out the organization's goal of improving the quality of life on Molokai.

The Office of Planning has developed a niche/area of focus in planning for rural areas. In particular, OP has coordinated the efforts of the Leeward Coast Initiative which is a follow up to the Administration's work with the homeless in the Leeward Coast area. There was the recognition that while the transitional housing projects were good first steps that additional steps would be required to build the community economic development opportunities in the area. Mr. Mayer has been intimately involved in on-the-ground rural community development and can apply his experience and leadership to immediately tackle this issue and work toward effective solutions. His skill in working "together" with rural communities will be a tremendous asset to this effort.

Further, OP has worked on rural land use issues and proposals to retain rural character and lifestyle. Mr. Mayer has expressed an affinity for rural areas and through his work has demonstrated a commitment to retaining their special character and uniqueness.

Mr. Mayer also supports the protection of Hawaii's unique environmental and cultural resources. His work in capacity building for the Molokai Land Trust and negotiating and securing funding for the fee simple acquisition of a perennial stream watershed in East Molokai are examples of this.

Mr. Mayer is a person who listens to various viewpoints; a person who thinks before he acts; and a person who can build relationships. In addition and importantly, as you talk to him, you recognize that he is committed to the well-being of Hawaii's land, natural resources and people. He is well-suited for the position of director of the Office of Planning and will be an effective leader.

I urge you to approve the confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the Office of Planning.

LATE TESTIMONY

testimony

From: Richpezz@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 7:28 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony - Water and Land Committee

February 19, 2008

Statement by Richard Pezzulo
Executive Director, Empower Oahu

GM258 RELATING TO Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey
Seth Mayer

Submitted to:

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Water and Land Committee
DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2008
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

(Submitted via email)

Dear Senator Hee:

Empower Oahu is a non-profit community development organizations comprised of nine Oahu communities. **Empower Oahu strongly supports** Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, and urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey S. Mayer.

We believe Mr. Mayer brings the necessary experience and qualification needed to conduct the planning required by our State and to address a number of issues important to our communities, as cited below:

- maintaining and sustaining rural Hawai'i;
- protecting important agricultural lands, if not legislatively, then at least administratively; and
- facilitating the bringing together and bridging of diverse players and points of view around viable strategies for rural Hawai'i and a sustainable Hawai'i

Empower Oahu strongly supports Mr. Mayer as the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii.

Please contact me, should you wish any further information.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

2/19/2008

testimony

From: Claire.S.Kodama@hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 8:51 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Michael.S.Yoshinaga@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony on GM 258
Attachments: GM0258_LNR_02-20-08_WTL.doc

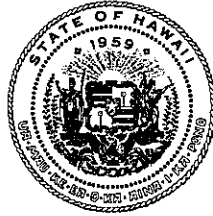
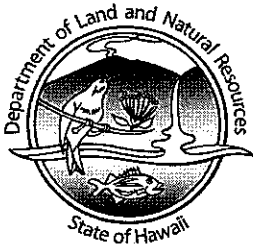
LATE TESTIMONY

Attached is GM 258 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director of the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, ABBEY SETH MAYER, for a term to expire 12-06-2010 to be heard before the Senate Committee on Water and Land on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 2:45 p.m. in Conference Room 414.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Claire Kodama, Secretary
Office of the Deputy Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 130
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808-587-0403
Fax: 808-587-0390

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**on GM 258 - "ABBEY SETH MAYER" GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE AS
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-06-2010**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND**

February 20, 2008

As the former Director of the Office of Planning, I have a special place in my heart for the Office, and a keen appreciation for the important role it can and should play in our state. As the most recent Director, I also have an in-depth understanding of the qualities needed for a Director to smoothly manage the Office and to elicit the highest quality work with the staff.

I believe that Abbey Seth Mayer has the focus, the experience, the character and most importantly, the sincere desire to do the job which will make him an excellent Director of the Office of Planning.

Over the past two years the Office of Planning has concentrated on rural community development which maintains a sense of rural character and place; overseeing the implementation of our state's Ocean Resource Management Plan by leading an interagency-community team to coordinate actions relating to ocean management; and strengthening our coordinated, multi-agency state GIS database.

The common characteristics required for any director to lead these efforts are: an ability to work well with multiple groups; an ability to communicate well; an ability to clearly see end goals and find paths around inevitable obstacles; an ability to inspire others so that they will join common efforts to reach these goals, and; a strong desire to achieve tangible results.

Mr. Mayer has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to community planning and rural communities. He has a history of working in such communities before he came to Hawaii, and continued this work in Molokai. He has the temperament, passion and dedication to inspire others and make them want to work with him. I believe he will make an excellent Director for this Office.

I know some people will argue that Mr. Mayer's confirmation should be denied solely because he staffed the Molokai Economic Community (MEC) Board when it voted to support the

community plan, which included, among other things, the La'au Point development. I'd like to address why I believe this fact should not preclude you from confirming Mr. Mayer.

I ask that this body keep in mind two things when evaluating Mr. Mayer's role in staffing the MEC Board. First, the MEC Board made many rural community development decisions while Mr. Mayer worked there, and his commitment to identify and foster sustainable rural economic development is evident in the many projects he helped support in the Molokai community.

The second matter to keep in mind is that the current debate over the La'au Point development is only a part of a much larger community development plan which the MEC Board supported while Mr. Mayer staffed that organization. That broad community plan is completely unprecedented in its scope.

Under this plan, the landowner proposing La'au Point was offering to give the MEC Board fee simple ownership of large areas of land in the heart of town, thereby giving the community full control over the type of development which could occur and a revenue source to support the community-driven economic development in the future. In addition, the landowner proposed to place perpetual conservation or agricultural easements on more than 60,000 acres of land, thereby committing that the future uses of those properties would be limited. In contrast, most developments today provide a scant few acres for a school site, and possibly an acre or two for a community park.

While I was Director of the Office of Planning, we visited Molokai to meet with the MEC Board, Walter Ritte and other opponents to La'au Point. After listening closely to all parties, I came away with the conclusion that everyone involved in this matter is a good person faced with an extremely hard decision about the future of the community.

Some felt that it was better to make compromise in one area in exchange for guarantees of control and permanently limiting development in a much larger area.

Some felt that the compromise asked in the one area was too costly and would lead to unacceptable changes in the community.

The point I want to make is that this decision is an extremely difficult one, and good people – people who stood united in the past on issue after issue over decades - fall on both sides of this one. Mr. Mayer's role in staffing the MEC Board during this period does not rise to the level to justify denying his confirmation.

The bottom line is that Mr. Mayer has the qualifications to lead the Office of Planning.

The bottom line is we shouldn't punish people who are willing to work on the hard issues, because we have many hard issues in our state that we simply can't ignore.

The bottom line is we need a Director for the Office of Planning who understands the importance of persevering to find solutions for rural communities, for resource management, for preserving our unique sense of place in these islands.

Abbey Seth Mayer has the heart and soul for this job. Please give him this opportunity. I know you won't be disappointed.

testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Stephanie Reid [stephanie.reid@yale.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 7:52 AM
To: testimony
Subject: GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer

To Whom It May Concern:

In considering Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, I strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey S. Mayer for the position.

Abbey Mayer, whom I met while attending Yale University in 1994, has been a personal friend for fourteen years. Throughout the time that I have known him, he has conducted himself with integrity, honesty, and in accordance with his core beliefs in family, community, and the environment.

In 2005, Abbey and I were fortunate to be selected to attend the Yale Summer School of Art and Music at the Stoeckel Estate in Norfolk, Connecticut. While there, Abbey made a series of landscape paintings that, while abstract, were well-grounded in observation, "looking," and in the lush colors of a New England summer. In both size and dimension (about six feet by two feet), these oil paintings seemed to recall both man's presence in and experience of the natural world. I reference these paintings because I believe they represent in artistic form not only Abbey's enduring appreciation for the beauty of Nature, but also his extraordinary sensitivity to the delicate relationship between humans and their environment. It seems fitting that he would use his creative energies and intelligence to benefit a landscape and a community of people that he cares for so very much, in the State of Hawaii.

I am certain Abbey Mayer's thoughtful sensibility and deliberate manner, as well as his dedication and work ethic, will be invaluable assets to the State's Office of Planning.

Please contact me, should you wish any further information.

Sincerely,

Stephanie N. Reid
Yale College, Class of 1996, and
Assistant Director, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute New Haven, Connecticut

TESTIMONY
GM 258
LATE
(END)