

GM 258

The Senate
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Committee on Water and Land
February 20, 2008
2:45 p.m.

LATE TESTIMONY

Statement of the Hawaii Carpenters Union on the Appointment
of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the Office of Planning

The Hawaii Carpenters Union, UBCJA Local 745, supports the appointment of
Abbey Seth Mayer.

The Office of Planning holds much potential for analyzing current projects and
trends and shaping long range administrative thinking. Abbey Seth Mayer brings an
outlook and varied experience that will serve the State well.

That experience indicates a sensitivity to tradition and protection of the
environment while actively fostering economic development so that people can live.
Broad ideals are reflected, while carrying management to concrete, detailed
implementation.

Please consider our support for the confirmation of Abbey Set Mayer as Director
of the Office of Planning.

February 20, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair
Committee on Water and Land
GM 258
Confirmation of Abbey Mayer
Wednesday, February 20, 2008 2:45 pm

Dear Senator Hee:

Subject: Written Letter on Confirmation of Abbey Mayer as Director of Office of Planning

I am writing to support the confirmation of Abbey Mayer as Director of Office of Planning. I have only recently met Abbey Mayer as he was recently nominated as director for the Office of Planning where I work. However, I feel that he is very sincere about supporting planning and the future well-being of our state. He also has expressed that he values developing good working relationships with people. This is critical in an organizational setting such as the Office of Planning. I have found that he listens which is an important attribute of a good leader.

In addition, with his background he will be able to make valuable contributions to Rural planning and the Leeward Coast initiative which are two significant projects of the Office of Planning.

Mary Lou Kobayashi
3325C Maunaloa Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokobun, Vice Chair

Testimony of Daniel E. Orodenker in Support of the
Confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the Office
of Planning

February 20, 2008

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee;

I am here to testify as an individual in support of Abbey Seth Mayer's confirmation for the position of Director of the Office of State Planning.

I have worked with many OP directors over the years going back to 1989 in my work as the Director of the Honolulu Waterfront Master Plan, the Aloha Tower Project and as an assistant to the director of DBEDT. In my estimation Abbey has the ability and experience to fill this position.

One of the key elements to planning is the planning process and work with the community. Abbey has significant experience with the Molokai community in the development and execution of the planning processes through his work at the EC and his work with other organizations.

Abbey has shown himself to be a capable and highly motivated individual with a keen grasp of land use and regulatory issues. He has been instrumental in moving forward a number of economic development initiatives and has recognized that it takes planning and foresight to bring together the elements of different land use, environmental and regulatory issues to allow projects to evolve and be successful. Significantly, Abbey has shown an aptitude for understanding how and where federal and private sector funds are available to assist in planning and project development.

Based on my experience working with Abbey I am fully in support of his appointment as Director of the Office of State Planning.

Daniel E. Orodener
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of the Appointment of Abbey Seth Mayer, Director of the
Office of Planning**

Submitted by John and Jennifer Sabas
February 20, 2008

Aloha Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Abbey Mayer. We offer our testimony as individuals and not in our official capacities.

We are familiar with Abbey Mayer and his contributions to the island of Molokai through his work with various organizations that help to improve the island's economy. We have observed Abbey to be a quick learner, well organized and a team player. He has used his skills well on an island like Molokai where there are many issues to resolve. Should he be confirmed as State Planning Director, Abbey's sensitivity to planning and development issues that exist in communities like Molokai is a valuable asset to others that live on the neighbor islands and to those of us who also reside in rural Oahu.

His involvement with the Molokai Slaughterhouse Cooperative for example, demonstrated his ability to work with users to plan, organize and implement a program that resulted in the slaughterhouse finally being operational after numerous attempts had failed for the previous 10 or more years.

His most recent role as Executive Director for the Molokai Enterprise Community has shown Abbey to be a person of much strength and integrity in dealing with the views of residents who differ with his organization's vision for economic development on Molokai. Through it all, Abbey has stood firm in his commitment to have Molokai realize a sustainable future through a plan that balances a desire by the community for additional employment with the need to preserve its precious lands, natural resources, lifestyle and culture.

We support the appointment of Abbey Mayer as Director for the State Office of Planning and we ask your favorable decision in confirming his appointment.

Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony.

John and Jennifer Sabas
Kaneohe and Kaunakakai

February 20, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

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Chair
Committee on Water and Land
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Mary Lou Kobayashi
3325C Maunaloa Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: Art Mori [artm@oha.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 6:24 PM
To: testimony
Subject: GM258 Letter of Support for Abbey Mayer

LATE TESTIMONY

CHAIR, WATER and LAND COMMITTEE Testimony for FEBRUARY 20, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Water and Land Committee
23rd Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. #228
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer

Dear Senator Hee:

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. Mr. Mayer's qualifications for this position are outstanding, as cited below:

In 2006, when Mr. Mayer was appointed to the executive directorship of Ke Aupuni Lokahi--the non-profit organization administering the Molokai Enterprise Community--he brought marked stability to the organization. Through his leadership, the organization has successfully provided oversight in the Island's 10-year revitalization plan as part of its Enterprise Community designation, which it received in 1998. In doing so, he has built a strong foundation upon which to carry out the plan by, among other things, coordinating operations, establishing priorities among competing interests, anticipating problems and needs, and maintaining fiscal controls.

The substance of the EC work involved comprehensive planning and the implementation of multiple inter-related projects. It also involved working with many constituencies and audiences, who often differed with each other.

The MEC's decision to express support for a community-based land use plan for approximately one third of the island owned by Molokai Properties, Ltd. drew controversy because of one aspect of the plan which would allow the development of 200 homes around the area of La'au Point. Regardless of the positions segments of the community have taken on this part of the plan, all will agree that the comprehensive land use plan is a complex and a far-reaching one with vast positive impacts for the future of Molokai. This plan provides realistic and sustainable avenues for addressing many of Molokai's most endemic problems -- through the reopening of the Kaluakoi Resort, to the perpetual protection and conservation of over 51,000 acres of land, and the creation of affordable homes.

As Executive Director of the Molokai Enterprise Community, supporting some 20 active projects, Mr.

Mayer has operated with dedicated professionalism. He has the ability to listen to and work with many different constituencies. While able to think in a visionary and bold manner, he is also able to focus with intensity on the details necessary to move plans to concrete reality. Mr. Mayer possesses foresight and the ability to think strategically as well as to develop creative solutions. He exercises leadership and decisiveness coupled with a high degree of intelligence and steadiness. He holds unwavering values for integrity and ethics.

It is obvious that he possesses a care and concern for the communities he works with and for the future of Hawaii. These qualities when applied to the position under consideration will serve well the Office of State Planning.

I have worked as an OHA CBED Economic Development Specialist in various capacities with Abbey Mayer. While participating in the HACBED Community Connections Program, I first met Abbey Mayer when he did a presentation of his proposal for the Molokai Enterprise Community. It was during his presentation that I was finally able to fully understand the important aspects of the Molokai Ranch land settlement. Also, as the Monitor for the Ke Aupuni Lokahi, a non-profit organization administering the Molokai Enterprise Community, I would oversee the results of project and his performance. His integrity, commitment and unselfish dedication are qualities he upheld throughout his tenure as the executive director. I value his appreciation for the environment and love for our lands and her people and I truly believe that Abbey Mayer will be of great benefit as Director of Planning for the State of Hawaii.

Please contact me, should you wish any further information.

Sincerely,

Art Mori

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