

TESTIMONY

GM 432

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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To: Senate Committee on Water and Land
From: Dr. Robert H. Cowie
For: Hearing on Wednesday February 20, 2008 at 2:45 pm
Date: February 15, 2008

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

I support the confirmation of nominee Dr. Joan E. Canfield to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, without reservation.

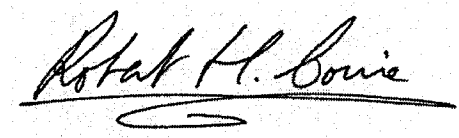
I am a Researcher (equivalent to Full Professor) at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and Chair of the UHM Graduate Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology (EECB). This is my personal testimony – I do not represent the University of Hawaii.

I have known Dr. Canfield for over a decade as a major figure in the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity in Hawaii and the Pacific. In particular, I have worked closely with her for the last eight or nine years on the Research and Travel Grants Committee of EECB, which she currently chairs. In this capacity I have developed immense respect for Dr. Canfield. She is extremely conscientious, logical and clear in her assessments of the grant applications, has the students' well-being and education at the forefront of her approach, and is truly enthused by the outstanding environmentally related research many of them are carrying out.

Not only is Dr. Canfield an accomplished scientist (PhD in Botany from UHM in 1986), but she has worked extensively with many of the Federal and non-governmental agencies involved in natural resource management in Hawaii, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey and the Nature Conservancy, notably having been involved with sensitive species and habitats. In these various capacities she has collaborated with many other Federal, State and non-governmental organizations and has a deep understanding not only of Hawaiian ecosystems and their management but also of the numerous agencies involved, their responsibilities and constraints.

Dr. Canfield is strongly committed to community service – note her enthusiastic work for and support of Hawaii Public Radio. She is a serious, committed environmentalist with a practical, common sense approach to working with agencies and the community to achieve what is best for Hawaii. She will continue to be an asset to the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Cowie". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Robert H. Cowie, PhD

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(END)