

TESTIMONY
GM 433

testimony

From: Dale B. Bonar [dale@mauicoastallandtrust.org]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2008 9:45 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony of Dale B. Bonar for Natural Areas Reserve System Commission 2008-2012

February 18, 2008

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land**

For: Hearing on Wednesday February 20, 2008 at 2:45 pm

RE: Confirmation of Dale B. Bonar (GM433) to Natural Areas Reserve System Commission for the 2008-2012 term.

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the WL Committee,

I am honored to be nominated for a second 4-year term on the Natural Areas Reserve System Commission and would appreciate the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Hawaii.

I believe I have brought a significant level of service to the NARSC in the past four years, and particularly in my position as Commission Chair for the last two and a half years. In that time the commission has addressed some major issues, including the dramatic increase in public usage of several of the Natural Area Reserves, and have worked to put in place new or streamlined mechanisms to reduce that impact while increasing management capacity. In no particular order, these include:

- Establishing new rules for temporary closures of NARS for protection of the environmental values (these are the first new rules for NARS in over 15 years)
- Curtailing commercial activities in the NARS which had resulted in degradation of conservation values. One of the main areas being affected was the only Marine Reserve, located at Ahihi-Kinau on Maui which was heavily impacted by commercial kayak and diving tours.
- Updating the application and review process for NARS Permits and establishing clear rules for such permits.
- Supporting the passage of the Legacy Land Act which resulted in formation of the Legacy Land Conservation Fund.
- Instigating Strategic Planning for the Natural Areas Reserve System (the first since 1987), which has involved other divisions and offices of DOFAW, encourages better co-ordination and communication between these entities, lays out a roadmap for updating management plans for all the existing NARS and for evaluating potential new NARS which are not currently represented in the System.

I believe the NARS system has been significantly strengthened by the Commission's activities in the past four years and am proud to have been a part of those activities. I look forward to the opportunity to continue these efforts and respectfully request your confirmation of my position on the NARSC.

Sincerely,



Dale B. Bonar, Ph.D. Make No Small Plans
Maui Coastal Land Trust For they have no Magic
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Patrick Conant
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February 19, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re: Confirmation of Dr. Dale Bonar as Chair of Natural Area Reserve Commission
at the Wednesday February 20, 2008 meeting.

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and Committee members,

I have just learned that your Committee will be considering tomorrow the confirmation of Dr. Dale Bonar as a member of the Natural Area Reserve Commission. As a fellow commissioner, I would like you to know that I fully support his re-appointment to this position. He has done an exemplary job as Chair of the NARS Commission, and the accomplishments we have made during that time verify that. Dr. Bonar has been Chair during the time that Ahihi Kinau NAR has been besieged by over use, primarily by tourists guided by inaccurate new ("for profit") guide books. However, with Dr. Bonar's strong support, improvements have been made there to mitigate the impact of the crowds and more actions are planned to protect this unique marine NAR.

The ongoing enforcement problems at Ahihi Kinau have highlighted the need for long overdue DLNR/NARS rule changes. The rule changes were a long somewhat painful process that Dr. Bonar led the Commission and NARS Staff to completion of just recently. The new rules have now made it possible to close several loopholes and properly enforce rules that truly protect all the NAR from human caused damage.

Lastly, Dr. Bonar spearheaded the creation of a long overdue new Strategic Plan for the Natural Areas Reserve System, which is now almost complete. The Plan is an excellent and much needed guide to the future direction of NARS in the twenty first century.

Please confirm the appointment of Dr. Bonar to the Natural Area Reserve Commission. We need a good representative from Maui and he has demonstrated that he is the right man for the job.

Aloha,

Patrick Conant

RICHARD HOEFLINGER

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February 19, 2008

Testimony in Support of Dale Bonar (GM 433) to the NARS Commission
Committee on Water and Land Hearing, Wednesday, February 20, 2:45 PM, Conference Room
414

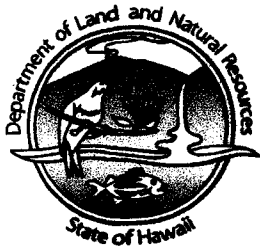
Dear Chairman Hee, Vice-Chairman Kokubun, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I support the confirmation of Dale Bonar to a second term on the Natural Areas Reserve System Commission. I have worked with Dr. Bonar on the Commission for the past 2 ½ years, and in his position as Chairman, have found him to provide leadership that is knowledgeable, fair, and effective.

Respectfully,

Richard Hoeflinger
Member, Natural Areas Reserve System Commission

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

**on GM 433 - "DALE BRIAN BONAR" GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE
NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM COMMISSION, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-
30-2012.**

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

February 20, 2008

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports GM 433 to appoint Dale Brian Bonar to the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Commission for a full term to expire on 06-30-2012.

The NARS Commission (Commission) is composed of thirteen members appointed by the Governor in accordance with Section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with six members with scientific qualifications and academic degrees in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology; one member representing a hiking organization; and one member representing a hunting organization. The purpose of the Commission is to establish criteria and conduct studies for evaluating areas for inclusion within the NARS and recommend to the Governor and Department areas to be included in NARS, establish policies regarding management, protection, and permitted uses of NARS and advise the Governor and Department on preservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources.

Dr. Bonar is currently the Chairperson of the Commission and meets the requirement as one of the six members with scientific qualifications and an academic degree. Dr. Bonar has a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawai'i. Dr. Bonar has a broad and practical background from academic research to on the ground management of marine coastal areas and will continue to fill the Marine Biology Subject Matter position on the Commission. He has been a very active and valuable member and provides a very strong overall perspective, particularly keeping monitoring concerns in mind and understanding how they may help to determine best management priorities. He is very interested in continuing to serve and brings a great deal of experience to the Commission for the benefit of all. He was appointed to the Commission for a first term in 2004 and was appointed as its Chair in 2005. He has been a very active Chair, especially involved in helping to draft a strategic plan for the entire NARS and Natural Area and Watershed Management Program in the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

TESTIMONY

GM 433

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