

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 433**  
**LATE**

Statement of  
**SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
2:45 p.m.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

in consideration of the

**CONFIRMATION AND REAPPOINTMENT OF  
DALE BONAR, Ph.D.**

**to the State Natural Area Reserves Commission**

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

This is my personal statement indicating **strong support** for the confirmation of Dale Bonar for a second term with the State's Natural Area Reserves System Commission (NARSC).

My acquaintance with Dale Bonar is through my official duties as an employee with the State of Hawai'i, Office of State Planning. However, I wish to make it very clear that this statement is solely my own and does not have any official sanction of State government.

I have served as an ex-officio member for the director of the Office of State Planning on the NARSC for almost 10 years. During that time I have had the privilege of serving with and learning from some of the finest local scientists in the State; I consider Dale Bonar to be one of them.

During his tenure on the Commission he has provided strong leadership, taking up the post of Chairman not long after his initial appointment. As Chair he has been instrumental in focusing the Commission and the NARS staff through implementing long overdue administrative rule changes and a Strategic Planning process. Under his guidance our meetings have become more efficient and effective in conducting our business, working with staff, and constructively interacting with applicants for permits and the general public.

Dale's background in marine biology has been a particularly useful compliment to the other scientists, lay commissioners and agency members whose purview is often more focused on terrestrial resources and processes. Nowhere has this been more important than at the State's only Natural Area Reserve, Ahihi-Kina'u on Maui, that contains a land area and an ocean component. His counsel has been listened to within the community on Maui, at the Commission, and among staff at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I urge your committee to support Dale Bonar's continued work with the NARSC. He's been an effective member of the Commission and a staunch advocate on behalf of Hawai'i's most precious natural resource heritage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**(END)**