

TESTIMONY
GM 488

12/28/07

Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Sir or Madame,

I am writing to express my strong interest to serve a second 4-year term on the Natural Areas Reserve System Commission (NARSC). My interest in serving an additional term as a representative of Hawaii Island on the NARSC stems from my deep commitment to maintaining the integrity of native Hawaiian ecosystems and the services that they provide. This interest, combined with my belief that the NARS is a potentially effective system by which to sustain such ecosystems, compels me to apply for a second term on the NARS commission.

My interest in native Hawaiian ecosystems extends back to 1987 when I began conducting research as an undergraduate and graduate research assistant with Dr. Peter Vitousek from Stanford University. My initial research investigated the ecosystem-scale impacts of invasion by the non-native tree *Myrica faya* in mesic forests of Hawaii. In addition, my research efforts included investigation of the impacts of invasion by non-native grass species and the altered fire dynamics that they introduce to dryland forest systems of Hawaii. From these early efforts, I learned first hand the devastating impacts that invasive species can have on native Hawaiian ecosystems.

During the past seven years, I have been employed as a research ecologist on the Invasive Species Team of the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry – USDA Forest Service in Hilo, Hawaii. My primary responsibility has been to conduct research concerning the impacts of invasive species on native ecosystems of Hawaii and other US-affiliated islands of the Pacific. Consequently, my career, in both the short- and long-term, has been, is, and will continue to be, focused on increasing understanding, identifying priorities, and providing management recommendations regarding native ecosystems of the Pacific Islands and the threats posed to them. Again, I see the NAR system as a very effective means of protecting native ecosystems in Hawaii, and I look forward to contributing to such efforts. Thank you for considering my application and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the information that I have provided. In addition, please see below the names and addresses of references that you may contact on my behalf.

Best Wishes,

Flint Hughes

R. Flint Hughes, Ph.D.
Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry
USDA Forest Service
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References:

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Ms. Lisa Hadaway
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State of Hawaii
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COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Friday, March 14, 2008
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 414
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of GM 488- Gubernatorial Nominee Richard Flint Hughes

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Committee,

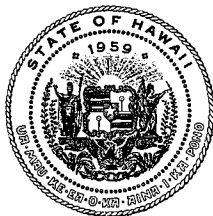
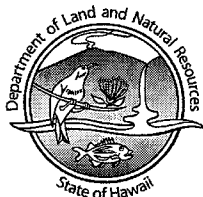
I am writing to ask for your support of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Richard Flint Hughes for a second term to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission. Dr. Hughes has worked on a number of important studies on ecosystem processes in Hawai'i and his holistic view of impacts to ecosystem processes has led to a wide range of collaborative works. One example of Dr. Hughes' work is how certain types of invasive plants (such as *Falcataria moluccana*, AKA albezzia) can change the soil chemistry, which in turn alters stream water and run-off chemistry, and can promote the invasion of other invasive plants and animals, even the coqui frog.

I firmly believe that Dr. Hughes' knowledge of natural processes will continue to be a tremendous asset to the Natural Area Reserve Commission and I feel that his actions show his concern for the environment and the people of Hawai'i. I ask that you please support Dr. Hughes for a second term on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Public Information Officer
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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Engineering
Forestry and Wildlife
Historic Preservation
Kahooolawe Island Reserve Commission
Land
State Parks

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

**on G.M. 488 – “RICHARD FLINT HUGHES” GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2012**

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

March 14, 2008

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor’s Message (GM) 488 to appoint Richard Flint Hughes to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission for a full term to expire 06-30-2012.

The Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) 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; one member representing a hunting organization; five representing the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Board of Agriculture, Office of Planning, President of the University of Hawaii, and Superintendent of Education. 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. Hughes is currently a member of the Commission and meets the requirement as one of the six members with scientific qualifications and an academic degree. Dr. Hughes graduated with a degree in Human Biology and a Master of Science in Biology from Stanford University, a Ph.D. in Forest Science from Oregon State University, and a Post-Doctorate in Ecosystem Ecology with the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Hughes is currently a Botanist with the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry and has a background in academic and applied research, and will continue to fill the Botany Subject Matter position on the Commission. He is very interested in continuing to serve and brings a great deal of experience on setting research priorities to help inform and guide management of natural areas. Dr. Hughes was appointed for a first term in 2004; he has been a very active and valuable member, providing specific perspectives as an active research scientist, as well as actively contributing to development of a strategic plan for the entire Natural Area Reserves System, and Watershed Management Program of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

TESTIMONY

GM 488

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