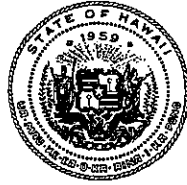


GM 579



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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Environmental Council,
Gubernatorial Nominees**

GM 579 – ALVIN L. CHAR
For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012

GM 580 – SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA
For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012

GM 581 – JOHN A. RICHARDS
For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012

GM 612 – GILL G. BERGER
For a Term to Expire 6-30-2011

Testimony of Katherine Puana Kealoha
Interim Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
Room 414

1 The Office of Environmental Quality Control strongly supports the appointments of Mr.
2 Alvin Char, Ms. Susan Matsushima, Mr. John Richards, and Mr. Gill Berger to the
3 Environmental Council.

4 Mr. Char has held various positions within the environmental industry. He has worked in
5 the past as an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Army in Hawaii, and he is currently
6 the Acting Deputy Director, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison. He has extensive
7 knowledge in federal laws and regulations pertaining to the environment, endangered species,
8 archaeological site management and protection.

1 Ms. Matsushima is currently the Program Manager for the Pacific Tropical Ornamental
2 Fish Program and has held various positions in the agricultural industry.

3 Mr. John Richards has a degree in Animal Science from Washington State University and
4 is currently the Operations Manager for Kahua Ranch on the Big Island. He has held various
5 volunteer conservation and safety positions.

6 Mr. Gill Berger has served for over 30 years in the retail business industry where he held
7 various regional and corporate managerial positions. During his tenure, he oversaw asbestos
8 removal, green construction, and recycling. He is also involved in various local faith-based
9 boards and initiatives.

10 All of their combined experience will help the Council's efforts to educate the public
11 about business, environmental, and cultural issues in Hawaii.

12 Members of the Council represent education, business, and environmental disciplines and
13 professions such as the natural and social sciences, the humanities, architecture, engineering,
14 public health, planning, agriculture, real estate, visitor industry, construction, media, and
15 community and environmental groups.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

menor4

From: Lea Hong [Lea.Hong@tpl.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 2:24 PM
To: menor4
Subject: Alvin Char nomination to the Environmental Council

Aloha Chair Menor and members of the committee -

I strongly support Alvin Char's nomination to the Environmental Council. I have worked with Alvin in his capacity as a civilian employee of the Army in charge of the U.S. Army's environmental program in Hawai'i. He is truly dedicated to protecting Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources, and well versed in state and federal laws requiring environmental protection, review, and public involvement.

Alvin's support and hard work was key in the completion of three major land conservation projects on O'ahu which were partially funded through the Army's Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) zone program.

1. Waimea Valley, which protected one of the last intact ahupu'a'a on the island - over 1,800 acres of land, including scenic waterfalls, meandering streams, important cultural and historical resources, endangered water-birds, native vegetation, and a vast botanical garden.
2. Moanalua Valley, which protected over 3,700 acres of watershed land that serves as habitat for the endangered Hawaiian flycatcher, the 'Elepaio forest bird, symbol of Hawaiian canoe-making. The valley contains important native plant and animal species, important cultural resources for la'au lapa'au (Hawaiian healing), and miles of hiking trails ten minutes from urban Honolulu.
3. Pupukea-Paumalu, which protected 1,129 acres of coastal bluff along O'ahu's famed North Shore, the natural backdrop to world-wide surf contests at Sunset Beach and 'Ehukai (Pipeline), and mauka of the Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District.

Without Alvin's dedication and commitment, these projects could not have been completed. He will make a thoughtful, balanced, and worthy addition to the Environmental Council.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

Lea Hong

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
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The Trust for Public Land - Celebrating 35 years of conserving land for people--2 million acres and counting.
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4/2/2008

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment (ENE)

Alvin L. Char

Nominee for the Environmental Council

Chair, Ron Menor and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, thank you for the opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Environmental Council.

I am keiki o ka aina. I was born in Honolulu. Shortly thereafter, my family moved to Kailua where at an early age I was fortunate to enjoy all that that "country environment" had to offer. I lived a true Huck Finn-type boyhood: surfing, hiking, swimming, and fishing almost daily. The State was a lot less crowded then. Although it's not quite the same, I'm happy to say that through thoughtful management by the State of Hawaii, many of those same opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the environment that is the "Hawaii experience" still exist today.

I attended and graduated from Kailua High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Biology. With the encouragement of my mentor at the University of Hawaii, Jackie Miller at the UH Environmental Center, I enrolled in the School of Public Health focusing on water quality and Environmental Health.

I then began a long 30-year career protecting the environment in Hawaii. Working as the Chief of the U.S. Army's environmental program in Hawaii, I had the unique opportunity to leverage the resources of the Federal government to reduce pollution, protect our State's fragile natural and cultural resources, and work towards planning a more sustainable future. During that time I managed many Hawaii Department of Health environmental permits and worked on many controversial environmental impact assessments/statements (EA's/EIS's) including the Makua Valley EIS and the Stryker/Army Transformation EIS. In the last few years, the Army's brokered many partnerships with the community, including purchases of Waimea Valley, Pupukea-Paumalu, and Moanalua Valley parcels. In addition, I've worked closely with the Federal High Way Administration and the State Department of Transportation, on the Saddle Road Improvement Project on the Big Island. I believe that it is possible to balance growth, economic vitality, and an environmentally sustainable future with preservation of those environmental qualities that define what it means to live and grow up in Hawaii.

There is no doubt that the State faces many challenges with regards to future growth and sustainability, and I feel I can bring a wealth of experience working in the military/Federal sector to the table. If my appointment to the Environmental Council is confirmed, I look forward to serving the Legislature and the people of the State of Hawaii to forge a sustainable future for my children and my children's children. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Environmental Council. Thank you.