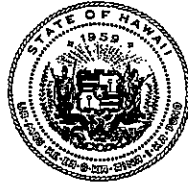


GM 581



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
235 S BERETANIA ST. SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Tel. (808) 586-4185
Fax. (808) 586-4186
Email: oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov

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.

3 April 4, 2008

For: To Whom It May Concern

From: John A. Richards

Subject: Statement of interest for HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

I would like to formally express my interest to serve on the HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL.

I grew up here in Hawaii. I then went to Washington State University. I then served in the US ARMY for 5 years. I lived in Europe for over 3 years. Served and traveled in many different countries. I now have been back for over 10 years. I am the Operations Manager for Kahua Ranch on the Big Island. Family operated for 80 years. In my travels and work I have never found anywhere better.

Today, Hawaii is facing some challenges. With my background in agriculture, visitor activities as well as security and experiencing other parts of the world's solutions, I feel I have a valuable perspective that may be helpful in facing these challenges. The Council's task of providing information and advisement by citizens offers a great opportunity to find solutions outside the normal channels.

Hawaii has invaluable natural assets as well as virtually limitless potential for business that are suited to this unique environment. The key is, and always has been, sustainable balance.

Thank you for your consideration

John A. Richards