

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 254**

## Advisory Committee on Pesticides – Nominee Robert Hauff’s Answers for the WLA Committee

1. *Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?*  
Serving on the committee would complement my other duties at DLNR, such as providing personnel with current pesticide use and safety information and recommending pest control strategies that are consistent with protecting the environment. It would also give me the professional experience of having served on a government advisory committee.
2. *How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of an Advisory Committee on Pesticides member?* Committee members ensure pesticide use in Hawaii is consistent with the best current science in protecting the environment and public health, while at the same time making sure the latest technology is available to Hawaii’s pesticide applicators for controlling harmful pests.
3. *Given your understanding of the responsibilities of an Advisory Committee on Pesticides member, why do you believe you are qualified for the position, including your skills, expertise or knowledge which would aid in decision making?* My qualifications for this committee include completion of course on restricted pesticide use in Hawaii, familiarity with pesticide labels, use of herbicides in wildland settings, risk assessment methodology, and an understanding of fundamental plant biology. Specifically relevant coursework conducted at the graduate level includes soil science, forest hydrology, and statistical analysis. Additionally, I am familiar with environmental and forestry pests that require use of pesticides for control and the potential impacts of not controlling them.
4. *What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?* I hope to gain a better understanding of state regulations on pesticides and broaden my knowledge of the state regulatory process, while making sure that pesticides are used judiciously in the State of Hawaii.
5. *Name three qualities that best describe you and would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?* Humility, diplomacy, and an analytical mind. These are qualities that a committee member should possess to help formulate balanced decisions affecting the safety and peace-of-mind of the people of Hawaii. Humility for acknowledging limits of one’s knowledge, diplomacy for successfully communicating with others who possess a differing point of view, and an analytical mind for reviewing, comprehending and expressing important information.
6. *Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?* While advising supervisors on formulating policy recommendations for the recent introduction of a new plant

disease in Hawaii I was able to succinctly communicate the necessary information for them to understand the issue without inclusion of unnecessary and confusing details. I believe dealing with complex issues requires the ability to distill and communicate the essential facts from the morass of detail that often fogs good judgment and hinders the ability to act when necessary. This, of course, can only be done by mastering the details first.

7. *Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise as you serve in this capacity?* No, I cannot think of any potential conflict.

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