

TESTIMONY
GM 399

February 16, 2009

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Nomination to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission
GM 399 Karen G.S. Young

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination by Governor Linda Lingle to the
Legacy Lands Conservation Commission.

Following is my responses to the information you requested.

In the past nearly 2 years that I've served on the Legacy Lands Commission, the
Commission has been instrumental in awarding funds for the purchase of thousands
of acres of beautiful lands in Hawaii –scenic open spaces, miles of coastland, cultural
and historic sites, critical habitats and valuable agricultural lands. These awards can be
found on the Legacy Lands Conservation Program website.

I have always been an advocate for environmental protection, and I am a committed
recycler and user of alternative energy. Rather than watch helplessly as more and more
of Hawaii is built up, I would like to continue through the Commission, to protect more
of our lands. It's been a challenge and an honor to do this work.

My qualifications are: my experience thus far on the Commission – I know very well the
requirements for application and the process/and procedures that are followed leading up
to evaluating and scoring the applications. I am also involved with Ka Papa Kakuhihewa,
a conservation group in Wai'anae. We have Hawaiian Electric Funds which are awarded
to applicants doing conservation work on the Leeward side. Also, I am president of the
Women of Wai'anae (WOW). We do fundraisers throughout the year. With these funds,
we award scholarships to mothers who are going back to school. Currently WOW is also
leading the effort to build a walking trail from Lualualei NAD Road to Maili. In addition,
in my work as a health care provider I have provided access to contraception /and
womens' health services to control family size – not only for health and family reasons
but for the population as a whole, in the context of its impact on our environment. I have
been doing this work for 35 yrs.

The role and responsibility of the Legacy Lands Commission is to execute the vision and
mission of the Legacy Lands Act. The Commission reviews applications for Legacy
Lands funds carefully and fairly. We site visit the lands that are being proposed, to verify,
and to clarify details and financial requirements and to get a sense of the bigger picture of
where the land is located and the stewardship capabilities of the end owner. We then

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meet to again evaluate the application, hear testimony, then score the applications fairly. We participate in any activity that will enable the Commission to execute its duties more effectively. We make changes where experience has indicated flexibility or changes were needed.

The three qualities that make me suitable for being on this Commission are: conscientiousness, fairness, and my commitment to environmental protection. These qualities indicate that I take this work seriously, and will execute them to the best of my ability.

What I hope to accomplish are: protection of more lands, to include undeveloped mountains and mountain ranges, as having as much value as the coastline. I would also advocate for smaller nonprofits to apply for LLCP funds. I would advocate that the program be promoted to more diverse groups that may qualify. If allowed, I would assist small groups to apply. Of course, I would recuse myself from evaluating and scoring their application if it came before the Commission.

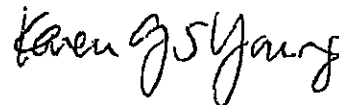
Regarding the question of one previous stand out experience:

In the last cycle of applications, Member Carl Berg and I site visited the Honouliuli Preserve which was applying again. The Trust For Public Lands had applied the previous cycle but had not been awarded. On this site visit, on the Kalua'a Trail, I witnessed plants that had been taken from Makua Valley and outplanted in this Preserve to protect it from extinction. Although the application long listed endangered plants and animals, it had not mentioned this aspect of the Preserve. As a resident of Wai'anac where Makua Valley has been damaged for 60 years, this made an emotional impact on me. My site visit report strongly recommended acquisition of this site. My partner concurred with me. This site came out number one in overall scoring. In addition, the Commission recommended that the left over funds remaining after all the other awards, be given to the Honouliuli application to help assure its purchase. I believe I have knowledge and personal connections to ongoing land struggles that may help the Commission see something that may not be "on paper".

Conflicts of interest may arise if any entity from Wai'anac applies for Legacy Lands Conservation funds. The community of environmental activists all know each other. Also, if any organic farmer from the state applies, I will probably know them or know of them since my daughter works for an organic farm. If this happens, I will contact the Ethics Office as I've done in the past, for an opinion as to whether I can participate in the evaluation of the application, and abide by their opinion. I have been and will continue to be open with the Commission, whenever there may be a conflict. Again, I will be sensitive to their concerns about any perceived conflicts.

I will be more than willing to take questions, and again thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely, Karen GS Young, MPH, MSN/APRN-Rx



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 13, 2009

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
and Members of the Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro

Re: Legacy Lands Conservation Commission appointee Karen G. S. Young (GM 399)
Hearing scheduled Monday, February 16, 2009 11:00 am

Aloha Senator Hee and Committee Members,

I wish to testify in strong support of my mother, Karen G.S. Young, and her re-appointment to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Needless to say, I would not be where I am today without the love, support and mentoring of my mother. She has had a profound effect on my career, and serves as a constant reminder of the values I should honor as a State Representative.

Karen Young has been a nurse practitioner at Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for more than thirty years and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health. She served for many years on the board of I Ioa Aina O Makaha, a farm that works with Makaha Elementary School children. She is a member of Nani O Wai'anae, which sponsors community cleanups, and is a Sierra Club supporter. She has served on Hawaiian Electric Company's Citizen Advisory Group and took part in a photovoltaic energy working group.

The key value she has brought to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission over the past two years is that of a layperson's perspective. Not trained as a land use or environmental specialist, she contributes significantly as an informed and assertive constituent. As legislators, you and I know there's nothing better than a few good constituents who consistently keep us in touch with the pulse of the community. This is what Mom does for me all the time.

During her tenure as a commissioner, she and her Legacy Land colleagues have approved funding to save thousands of prime acreage in agricultural and forested land, as well as along coastlines throughout our islands. She was especially gratified—as a resident of the often under-served Wai'anae Coast—that a conservation grant to acquire eleven acres was awarded to Ma'o Farms of Wai'anae.

I humbly request that you act favorably on Karen Young's re-appointment to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission so that she may continue her dedicated service for another four years.

Mahalo!

Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, District 45

(Wai'anae~Mākaha~Mākuā)

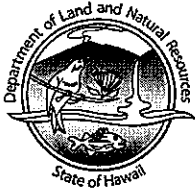
Chair, Committee on Human Services & Housing

Member, Committees on Education, Higher Education, Health & International Affairs

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 406, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Monday, February 16, 2009
11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 399 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAREN G.S. YOUNG,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 399 to appoint Karen G.S. Young to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for a for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Per the requirements of §173A-2.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Ms. Young is a resident of Oahu possessing membership in an environmental organization organized in the State of Hawaii.

Ms. Young is an extremely well-esteemed member of the Wai'anae community. She is involved in many innovative local programs, including an anti-litter and beautification organization, a local women's organization, and a community-based self-sufficiency teaching farm. Ms. Young is also a member of the Sierra Club and the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club. Ms. Young possesses a Master of Science in Nursing from the Western University of Health Sciences and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and has been an employee of the Waianae Comprehensive Health Center for over thirty years.

The responsibilities of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission are (1) advising the Department and the Board of Land and Natural Resources on any proposal, public or private, for the acquisition of any interest or rights in land having value as a resource to the State; (2) advising the department and the board on any requests for grants from the fund to a qualifying state or county agency or nonprofit land conservation organization for the preservation of lands having value as a resource to the State; (3) recommending to the board the acquisition of interests or rights in certain lands having value as a resource to the State; and (4) reviewing and adopting rules relating to the criteria it applies in advising the department and the board and making recommendations to the board regarding land acquisitions and grants made pursuant to Chapter 173A, HRS.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATEPARKS

Ms. Young's will continue to bring a strong concern for community-based conservation to the Commission. The Department supports G.M. 399 on the appointment of Karen G.S. Young to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and looks forward to working with her in the future.

February 13, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Legacy Lands Conservation Commission Appointment Support for Karen Young

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter serves as my wholehearted support for the re-appointment of Karen Young to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission.

I stated my support for Karen's initial appointment and I have not wavered in my belief that she has the values, knowledge, objectivity and commitment to serve our State through this important Committee.

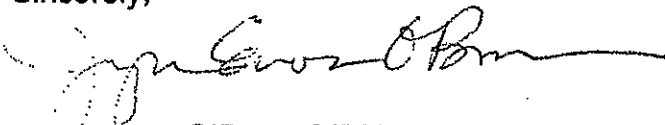
More than ever, we need individuals with Karen's compassion and knowledge to serve in advisory to our Board of Land and Natural Resources on projects impacting our current and future generations.

I have known Karen for over 20 years both in a professional, personal and civic capacity. Throughout this time, her integrity and compassion for the community, whether it be in the healthcare or environmental arena, has been highly respected and acknowledged.

Please consider Karen for reappointment to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,



Joyce Enos O'Brien, MPH
Resident, Waianae Coast
Associate Director, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of Senate Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing on appointments to the Legacy Lands Commission
February 16, 2009 11:00am GM399**

Re: Re- appointment of Karen Young

February 14, 2009

My name is Maralyn Kurshals, I am the Chair of the Health and Safety Committee of the Wai`anae Neighborhood Board #24. I am also on the board of directors of the Wai`anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and I have been an active member of the Wai`anae Coast community since 1999. I have been involved with community clean-up projects, preserving the environment and educational initiatives on behalf of our community.

I would like to provide my testimony in support of Karen Young's appointment to the Legacy Lands Commission. She has already served for two years and I believe she has the commitment, skills and dedication necessary to serve an additional term.

Ms. Young has proved her engagement in environmental issues over the years through her work in community clean-up projects, recycling initiatives and by coordinating a trail building project along the shore in Ma`ili. Ms. Young believes in the preservation of our precious resources and open spaces. She has a clear and balanced perspective on issues and is able to communicate with a wide variety of people. Ms. Young is a tireless advocate for what she believes in and has a deep sense of caring for our `aina and a knowledge of best practices as evidenced her both her personal and volunteer activities. She understands the importance of honoring our lands and I believe she will represent the Legacy Lands Commission with great integrity and insight.

Please support this nomination of Karen Young.
Thank you very much.

Maralyn Kurshals

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(END)