

TESTIMONY
GM 437

SAMUEL GONZ

Here is my set of statements made on consideration of the questions:

(a) Please explain what you feel is your most important contribution to the BLNR?

I bring a simultaneous view of a kama'āina with a western trained PhD in Hawaiian biology and a traditionally trained Hawaiian practitioner of oli and protocol.

(b) What unique qualifications do you have that has made a defining difference as a member of the BLNR?

I have spent the last 30 years learning about and actively protecting the living natural resources of this pae 'āina; I am cognizant of the history, status, and needs of our native plants, animals and ecosystems; natural systems that ultimately determine our survival and quality of life.

(c) What action have you taken as a BLNR member that best describes your philosophical view?

I am intensely interested in natural resource sovereignty and sustainability, and take a fiercely protective stance when native resources are threatened or abused; For example, I have supported increasing distance of permitted development from the coast, anticipating that coastline change will require planned retreat from the sea. I take actions that enhance protection of our natural resources (for example, adding conditions that minimize risk of inadvertent invasive species introduction and spread when projects are proposed in native forest in the conservation district); I recognize that kanaka are both part of the problem and the only hope for our native ecosystems.

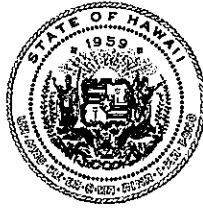
(d) Please explain the single most important action the government can take to improve your vision as a member of the BLNR?

We need strong leadership that is simultaneously protective of both our residents and the fragile island ecosystems of land and sea that we all depend on. We can no longer take our resources for granted, nor have a "use it before we lose it" mentality, but a reassertion of mālama 'āina that ties rights with responsibility. For our residents, we need tax and lease reforms for kama'āina who are being forced from their homes of generations along the coast by rapidly inflating land values there, so that the BLNR can offer a means for people to remain on ancestral lands. I believe the answer lies in a legislative action that recognizes and protects permanent residents and offers a reasonable schedule of payments independent of speculative real estate trends.

(e) Please explain what you believe to be the single biggest task that the BLNR must take action on?

It is difficult to select a single task, there are many issues before us. Ultimately, we need to make a transition into true sustainable use of our resources, including protecting our irreplaceable native Hawaiian plants and animals, generating all of our energy needs from our natural energy sources: wind, sun, wave, even heat of the earth if we can use a Hawaiian version of the Maori relationship with volcanic sources. Related to this, we need to strengthen our protection of diminishing resources such as fisheries, or we will see these resources collapse and be lost forever, our bitter arguments over "rights" to resources made moot by having no resources to argue over.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, March 20, 2009
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 437 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
SAMUEL M. GON III,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013**

On behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I would like to express my strong support for the reconfirmation of Dr. Samuel M. Gon III to serve as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Dr. Gon is the senior scientist and cultural advisor for The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. He has also been an affiliate faculty member at University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Urban and Regional Planning since 1999. Dr. Gon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Doctorate of Philosophy in animal behavior from the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Gon has over twenty-eight years of experience in research and conservation in the Hawaiian Islands and has worked with private, state, and federal entities on a variety of conservation and land management projects. He is also a Hawaiian cultural practitioner and underwent the traditional Hawaiian 'uniki rites of passage to attain the status of kahuna kakalaleo.

Having served on the Board of Land and Natural Resources since 2006, Dr. Gon has proven to be a conscientious, effective and actively engaged member, and I wholeheartedly urge this Committee to recommend his confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 10:55 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: Russell.T.Sparks@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for GM437 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM GM437

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Russell Sparks
Organization: Individual
Address: 306 Liliuokalani Street Pukalani, HI 96768
Phone: 808-572-5987
E-mail: Russell.T.Sparks@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

I strongly support the reappointment of Mr Samuel M. Gon III to the State Land Board.

I am an employee of the DLNR and have had to work with the Land Board several times in recent years. I have always found Mr. Gon to be extremely knowledgeable and thoughtful as he considers some of the difficult decisions that the Land Board is charged with making. Mr. Gon has very strong backgrounds in science, natural resource management, and Hawaiian cultural issues. The State Land Board has and will continue to benefit greatly from his wisdom and experience.

Thank you for considering my comments on Mr. Gon's Reappointment.

Sincerely,
Russell Sparks

From: JHRPlews@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 5:07 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: sgon@TNC.ORG
Subject: Hearing re confirmation for Sam Gon for new term on BLNR GN437, March 20, 3pm

Please recommend the confirmation of Samuel Gon PhD to a new term on the Board of Natural Resources.

Although I have not got to know Dr. Gon personally as well as I'd like, I have been impressed by him as a guide on Kokee Museum nature hikes and a Nature Conservancy expedition to the Big Island.

As an early member of the Kauai Invasive Species Committee, I am grateful for his support for those committees. KISC emphasizes eradicating "incipient alien invasive weeds and animals", that is hitting ones that have just arrived in a limited area of Kauai before they have a chance to spread. Once they've spread to inaccessible areas, their seeds can spread from it, so KISC's intervention must be swift. Quite often it needs to use herbicides or pesticides. Even climbing up and down steep, wet cliffs to get at alien weeds can harm the native vegetation around them. Thus, and intervention can do more good than harm, or more harm than good. Dr. Gon has the ecological expertise to reassure his fellow board members when its more good than harm, and warn KISC and the other ISC's that the urge that "something must be done" leads to over-enthusiasm.

I've also found Dr. Gon helpful via E-mail about Hawaiian names of plants and places.

His expertise in both ecology and Hawaiian culture is too valuable to lose.

John H. R. Plews
3066 Wailani Road
Honolulu 96813-1006
Honolulu 808-536-3015
Fax 808-545-7524
Kokee 808-335-3467

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:32 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: severns@mauigateway.com
Subject: Testimony for GM437 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM GM437

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline Fiene
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: severns@mauigateway.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

From: OHU1@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:38 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: In support of GM437 Samuel Gon III for BLNR

Aloha,

I am in support of the confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources of Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Samuel M. Gon III has done a tremendous job and should continue in his roll on the BLNR.

Mahalo!

Ka'ohu Cazinha
45-645 'Apapane Street
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

Feeling the pinch at the grocery store? [Make dinner for \\$10 or less.](#)

From: Waimea Williams [williamsw011@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:04 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM437

Re: consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

I have known Sam Gon for over ten years in various capacities,

- 1) as a board member and cultural advisor for of 'Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi, the O'ahu environmental organization, and
- 2) as a member of Halau Mele, being a cultural student and now cultural leadee, and
- 3) a leader in a wide variety of environmental activities for youth, and
- 4) as a responsible activist on all matters pertaining to the health of the environment in Hawai'i.

I strongly recommend his continued service to the BLNR.

Respectfully yours,

Waimea Williams, author and editor
45-539 Pahia Road
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

From: Keola Donaghy [keoladonaghy@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:08 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Sam 'Ohu Gon III BLNR appointment

Aloha. I am writing to support the appointment of Sam 'Ohu Gon III for another term on the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). his is item GM437, and the hearing will be held on March 20, 3PM.

Sam lends an importance voice for our native species, preserving cultural traditions, and encouraging meaningful scientific research. I have witnessed his tireless dedication to these causes, and has my complete confidence in the execution of the duties of this position.

Joseph Keola Donaghy
PO box 7090
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

-
=====
Keola Donaghy - <mailto:keola@nahenahe.net>
Hawaiian Language on the web - <http://www.olelo.hawaii.edu/>
Hawaiian Music on the web - <http://www.nahenahe.net/>
Shameless Self Promotion - <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~donaghy/>
Culture Hack - <http://www.culturehacks.com/>
=====

From: Keoki [keoki@maui.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:18 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM437 on March 20, at 3:00 p.m.

ALOHA TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,

Be it known that I support the confirmation of Samuel M. Gon III at your hearing on measure
GM437 on March 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Gon should be allowed to continue his good work in making decisions for our lands and waters
and people.

Me ka pono,

Keoki Sousa

Kumu and cultural practitioner

Kihei, Maui

From: Noah J Gomes [njgomes@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:39 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Regarding GM 437 (hearing March 20, 3pm)

Aloha,

I am writing in support of confirming gubernatorial nominee Samuel M. Gon III to the Board of Land and Natural Resources as is being considered in item GM 437 to be heard on March 20th, at 3 pm. His firm background in the natural sciences and native Hawaiian perspective give him the ability to make good balanced decisions for Hawaii's lands and people. Please confirm his nomination.

Mahalo nui,

Noah J. Gomes
Wahiawa, Oahu

From: g. umi kai [ulupono1@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:44 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Samuel M. Gon III Confirmation Hearing on March 20 at 3pm - GM437

Aloha,

I am writing to show my support for confirming Samuel M. Gon III to another term with the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sam is and has been a very strong and positive force in identifying and protesting our natural resources and I would like him to be able to continue his work with the BLNR.

Mahalo,

Gordon Umi Kai

Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner

3372 Kilauea Ave.

Honolulu, HI 96816

808-840-5510

ulupono1@gmail.com

From: val loh [vallohfoto@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:51 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Confirmation of Item GM437

GM437

"Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013."

Dear Hawai'i State Senate Members:

Please confirm Dr. Samuel M. Gon III as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He is eminently qualified as shown in the depth and scope of his knowledge of our islands, and also as the Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i.

Thanks very much,

Valerie Loh
2552 Peter Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96816

From: Joby Kapua [jobykapua@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 9:33 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM437 Testimony for hearing March 20, 3PM

I am writing with my wholehearted support for Sam Gon III for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His extensive knowledge about hawaii's natural and cultural resources and their conservation make him a natural for the role. He is a very balanced decision maker. I can be reached at this email or at 239-9230 for any other information regarding my support of Mr. Gon for this post.

Mahalo,
Kapua Kawelo

From: Rodney K. Powell [rodneypo@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 10:38 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Item #GM437 Testimony

In regards to:

Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

Measure: GM437
March 20, 2009
3:00pm

To whom it concerns,

I am in full support of Samuel M. Gon III for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He is a strong advocate for native plants, animals, ecosystems, and is a strong representative for the Native Hawaiian voice. I feel that he will make good decisions for our lands and waters, and the people of Hawaii.

Thank you,
Rodney Powell

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Dear Sirs and Mesdames;

As an advocate for native plants, animals, ecosystems and kanaka I Kealii Makekau ask for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013. GM437

He has the tools, talent, and the people's admiration in making good decisions for Hawaii's lands, waters and people.

Kealii Makekau
2563 Date St. #312
Honolulu, Hi 96826

From: Noelani Arista [makaulii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 7:08 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM437 March 20 3 pm Testimony in support of Samuel M. Gon

March 19, 2009

Aloha,

My name is Noelani Arista and I am an Assistant Professor of Hawaiian History at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in support of Samuel M. Gon's application for a seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Dr. Gon for over a decade as my hula brother in Na Wa'a Lalani Kahuna 'o Pu'ukohola, Kumu John Keola Lake. Due to his long connection with Kumu, he has refined and increased his knowledge in Hawaiian culture and language and I believe this is the kind of rare resource that is critical if the correct decisions are to be made with respect to the life of the land and people in our islands. He will continue I believe to be an indispensable resource on the BLNR.

I also am familiar with his excellent scholarship and his scientific knowledge and have always been impressed with the extent to which he is able to share this knowledge and expertise with the community. I hope that you will renew his tenure on the BLNR.

'O au no me ke aloha

Noelani Arista

Assistant Professor of Hawaiian History

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

"Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013."

March 20, 3PM

From: Joyce Kainoa [haupukele@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 8:56 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM347

RE: GM347

"Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013."

From: Chris Buddenhagen [cbuddenhagen@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 10:59 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

RE: GM 437

To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer my support to this nominee for the BLNR. His unique combination of biologist and cultural practitioner as well as a position in The Nature Conservancy provides for a useful perspective on the board.

Sincerely

--
Chris Buddenhagen
2121 Algaroba St. #605
Honolulu, HI, 96826

From: Kalei (Tsuha) Nuuhiwa [hawaiianmooncalendar@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:38 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: BLNR Samuel M. Gonn III

Aloha

My name is Kalei Tsuha and I live in Kahakuloa on the island of Maui. I am writing to you to **Submit my support for your consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL M. GON III, for a term to expire 6-30-2013, item labeled GM437.**

I have known Mr. Gon for nine years and have worked with him on various projects with the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, the Nature Conservancy, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and other Hawaiian cultural events. I've come to know Mr. Gon as a true advocate and valuable knowledgeable resource for native plants, animals, ecosystems and all things important to the survival and sustainability of the natural land and resources of Hawai'i.

Mr. Gon has a unique understanding of Hawai'i's lands and resources through his training as a scientist, an educator, and an advocate of Hawaiian traditions and practices.

Please consider Samuel Gon's for another term as a board member for the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

Kalei Tsuha, M.A.
'Apono 'Ia LLC
PO Box 38
Wailuku, Hi 96793
Phone: (808) 249-0595
Email: hawaiianmooncalendar@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 12:51 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: kainoa.l.gonsalves@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for GM437 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM GM437

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kainoa Gonsalves
Organization: Individual
Address: 130 Mahalani St. Wailuku, Hawaii
Phone: 808-243-5178
E-mail: kainoa.l.gonsalves@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

I'm in support of the reappointment of current BLNR Jerry Edlao, he has been very active on the Land Board and has gone out of his way to meet with DLNR staff on Maui, even make it a point to attend monthly Managers meetings, in order to better understand issues with Maui's natural and cultural resources. Maui's resources have been in great hands with Jerry an excellent land board member in dealings with the land board he has been extremely thoughtful, and has used his vast knowledge and cultural expertise to help guide the land board in making the best possible policy.

From: sabrakauka@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 1:20 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: ohukaniohia@gmail.com
Subject: GM437- In support of Dr. Sam Gon for BLNR

Re. GM437

Date and Time of Hearing: March 20, 2009 at 3PM

Aloha,

I write in strong support of Dr. Sam Gon for another term on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Dr. Gon is a strong advocate for native plants and Hawaiian culture, and I think his service on the board is of benefit to all Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your positive consideration of this matter.

Sabra Kauka
PO Box 3870
Lihu'e, Kaua'i Hawai'i 96766

Home phone: 246-8899

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 1:22 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: JudyOnMaui@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for GM437 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM GM437

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judy Epstein
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: JudyOnMaui@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

From: Michelle Bello [hinanohomauna@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:09 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for Sam Gon III GM437, March 20, 2009

Testimony IN SUPPORT of Samuel M. Gon III, GM437, Friday March 20, 2009:

My name is Reni Aōiaōi Bello and I am a Hawaiian language/culture/hula teacher at Waialua High and Intermediate School . I am writing in support of Samuel M. Gon's application for a seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Dr. Gon for about 5 years as my hula brother in Na Wa'a Lalani Kahuna 'o Pu'ukohola, Kumu John Keola Lake. As a cultural practitioner and teacher myself I can most certainly highly in favor of him as a candidate for a positioin o the BLNR. He has significant knowledge in Hawaiian culture and language and hawaiian traditional knowledge of caring for the environment. I believe this is the kind of resource that is critical and necessary in order for the board to make sound decisions about our pae āina of Hawai'i. He would help to ascertain that decisions are to be made with respect to the life of the land and to the traditional and current cultural practices in the indigenous people of our islands. He will continue to be an indispensable resource on the BLNR.

Mr. Gon freely shares his expertise and knowledge beyond just our halau. I have invited him to speak to my hawaiian classes that they too may be inspired and benefit from his knowledge. On a personal note I know Mr. Gon to be objective and sensitive in difficult situations. I hope that you consider very carefully the consequences of his absence on the board. Please renew his tenure on the BLNR. There are very few who could fill his shoes.

Mahalo,

Reni Bello
Hawaiian teacher
Waialua High & Inter.

From: Diane Lobre [diane@tobaccofreehawaii.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:15 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM437, Friday March 20, 2009

Testimony IN SUPPORT of Samuel M. Gon III, GM437, Friday March 20, 2009:

My name is Marion Lobre and I am a Project Specialist at the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii. I am writing in support of Samuel M. Gon's application for a seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Dr. Gon for over a decade as my Halau brother in Na Wa'a Lalani Kahuna 'o Pu'ukohola. We both studied under Kumu John Keola Lake. He is very knowledgeable in Hawaiian culture and language. His knowledge in both traditional and western concepts of land stewardship are the perfect blend to serve as a guardian and steward of Hawaiian lands. I believe Dr. Gon is the kind of resource that is critical if the correct decisions are to be made with respect to the life of the land and people in our islands. He will continue to be an indispensable resource on the BLNR.

I also am familiar with his excellent scholarship and scientific knowledge and have always been impressed with his passion for our environment and plant life. Dr. Gon truly loves to share his knowledge and has a wealth of information he freely shares with community members. I urge you to renew his tenure on the BLNR.

Mahalo,

Marion Lobre

TESTIMONY
GM 437
(END)