

TESTIMONY
GM516

Sumner Pardee Erdman**HC 1 Box 901****Kula, Hawaii 96790****Phone (808) 878-1202****Email - spc@maui.net****Confirmation Hearing for Commission on Water Resource Management****April 3, 2009**

Senator Hee (Chair), members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, thank you taking time out of your busy schedules to allow me to present myself for your consideration in my confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

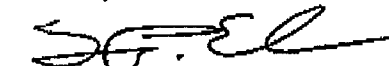
I was born and raised in Hawaii. Other than my time spent in University and a brief work stint in New Zealand, I have lived my entire life in Ulupalakua, on the island of Maui. I have been involved with agriculture all of my life. After attending elementary and high school on Maui I attended and graduated from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

As a lifelong member of the community at large and as a business-person on Maui, I have watched with great concern the issues surrounding our State's water issues. I have become extremely aware of the social, cultural, environmental and economic issues that all must be taken into account when dealing with our finite water resources. I am well aware that the economic stability, cultural heritage, environmental integrity and agricultural security are all contributors and affected aspects of our water dependence.

While working at Ulupalakua Ranch over the past 20 years, I have been involved with all of the aspects of running agricultural businesses in Hawaii, Oregon and New Zealand. This has given me a wide range of experiences in dealing with political, ecological, environmental and economic issues. This includes irrigation and water rights issues in both New Zealand and Oregon. I believe that these experiences, coupled with my experiences living in Hawaii would be useful in attempting to administer the State of Hawaii's Water Code as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I humbly ask for your support in my nomination to this Commission.

Sincerely,



Sumner P. Erdman

Sumner Pardee Erdman

March 30, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Hee:

Thank you for your letter dated March 23, 2009 (received March 27, 2009). I appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to personally send me a letter.

In response, I will attempt to answer your questions to the best of my abilities.

2a) **Why do I wish to be on the Commission:**

I firmly believe in the importance of this commission and its actions as it deals with the future of our great State. The implications of water resources in an island environment are clear and unyielding.

2b) **How do I perceive the roles and responsibilities of the Commission:**

I view the role of this Commission is to help the State of Hawaii enhance and protect its precious water resources by properly administering the State Water Code of 1987.

The Commission on Water Resource Management has the responsibility to administer the water code with honesty, fairness and effectiveness. It also has the responsibility of understanding the full intent of the water code legislation, so that it can make its decisions based on this intent.

Ultimately, the Commission must do its best to ensure that the people of Hawaii have clean and productive water resources for future generations.

2c) **Why I believe that I am qualified for the position:**

As a lifelong member of the community at large and as a business-person on Maui, I have watched with great concern the issues surrounding our State's water issues. I have become extremely aware of the social, cultural, environmental and economic issues that all must be taken into account when dealing with our finite water resources. I am well aware that the economic stability, cultural heritage, environmental integrity and agricultural security are all contributors and affected aspects of our water dependence.

My experience's at Ulupalakua Ranch have lead us to be very proactive in native reforestation, for no other reason than for the long term security of the water cycle in our area. Living in one of the semi-remote areas of Maui, I have been very aware of the cultural issues that are associated with our water resources. I am also very conscious of the importance of water in the short term and long term implications that it has on all of the aspects of our economy.

In our operations in Oregon and New Zealand, we manage irrigation systems. In doing so, I have become familiar with different aquifer systems and water laws in different parts of the world. I believe that this combined with my roots in Hawaii would give me a unique perspective if I was on the Commission.

2d) What do I hope to accomplish on the Commission:

I do not see my role on the commission to be about any personal accomplishments. I see my responsibility as being the administration of the water codes and laws. I would hope that while on the Commission, the body would be seen to administer these codes in such a way that every commissioner and the people of Hawaii felt that we had served the State well and accomplished our responsibilities.

2e) Three personal qualities that would benefit the Commission:

Integrity: I firmly believe that it is my duty and responsibility as a commission member to study and understand the issues that come before us so that I can make an honest and educated decision. If I were on the Commission I would never make a decision if I did not understand the issues nor was sure of my decision.

Honesty: I will not enter into any situation (business or personal) that I find to be unethical or dishonest. If on the commission, I would never knowingly enter a decision that I believed to be unethical or dishonest nor one that could be used against the people of Hawaii in a negative way.

Fair/Open-minded: I have always believed in keeping an open mind to all sides of an argument. My experiences in life have led me to understand that no two people see the world in exactly the same ways. We all see situations differently and have different degrees of belief on different issues. I believe that it is important for members of boards and commissions to always make their decisions in as objective a manner as possible, and this can only be achieved by listening with an open mind to each of the views that are presented to them.

2f) Previous experience that would benefit Commission:

I believe that my time on the State Board of Agriculture would be very beneficial to this Commission. I also believe that my business and life experiences inside of and outside of Hawaii would be very beneficial to the Commission. I believe all of these experiences give me an understanding of the responsibilities of being on a commission as well a deep understanding of the cultural, environmental, agricultural and economic issues that would be necessary in making the kinds of decisions that would come before the Commission on Water Resource Management.

2g) **Foreseen conflicts of interest:**

The only potential conflicts of interest that I could potentially see, is my sitting on the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Board. I will be resigning from my position on the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation Board immediately – so as to eliminate any potential conflict off interest on this issue. Furthermore, being that Ulupalakua Ranch has no perennial streams or rivers running over/through it, I do not see any issues arising from my position with the Ranch.

However, if for some unforeseen reason an issue did arise in which I had a conflict of interest – I would quickly disclose this conflict and recuse myself from any discussions and decisions on that issue.

Once again, thank you for your time and dedication. If you have any other questions or issues – please feel free to contact me at my office () e-mail me at

Sincerely,

Sumner P. Erdman

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**

**Friday, April 3, 2009
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 516 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SUMNER P. ERDMAN,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013**

On behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), I would like to express my support of the confirmation of Mr. Sumner P. Erdman to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission).

The Commission is required by law (Section 174C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to select commissioners through an open, competitive process. An independent nominating committee composed of two (2) members selected by the Governor, one (1) by the Senate President and one (1) by the House Speaker shall solicit candidates typically by placing an ad in the papers across the State, in the monthly bulletin of the Commission, and on the Commission's website. The nominating committee reviews the applications, conducts interviews if desired and sends to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for consideration.

The nominees, by law, must have "substantial experience in the area of water resource management." In his capacity as the president of Ulupalakua Ranch, Mr. Erdman actively promoted native reforestation for the express purpose of ensuring the long term health of the Ranch's water resources. He also has served as the director of the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District, which works to preserve our valuable land and water resources.

Mr. Erdman is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound (1988), and has completed the University of Hawaii's Agricultural Leadership Program and Stanford University's Executive Business Leadership Program.

Mr. Erdman has served on numerous boards and commissions in various capacities. He is the founding director of the North American Elk Breeders Association, has served as both president

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

and vice president of the Maui Cattleman's Association and the Hawaii Cattleman's Council, and he also has served on the State Board of Agriculture.

The State of Hawaii would truly benefit from the knowledge and experience Mr. Erdman would bring to the Commission. The Department therefore, strongly supports and urges the Senate to confirm Mr. Sumner P. Erdman's appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

From: Doug MacCluer [norfolkldm@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:57 PM
To: sumner Erdman
Cc: WTLTestimony; louli MacCluer
Subject: Testimony for Sumner Erdman to be on the Water Commission

Testimony for Sumner Erdman for the Water Commission

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman of the Water, Land Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and other Committee members of this Committee

My name is Doug MacCluer and I strongly support Sumner Erdman for the Board Position of the the State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resources Management. Mr. Erdman has served on the Board of Agriculture, the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District and has been a very large supporter of "Local Agriculture" with has support of the Maui Cattle Company, the Ulupalakua Thing and the Maui Community College Culinary Arts Program.

Sumner has also been an innovator in water use in a water short area. His family's Ranch and vineyard are at the end of the Kula Water System. In order to squeak through the dry summer months with his cattle and crops, he must be conservation minded and innovative to survive. Sumner is the only one I know in this state to catch the rain from road run-off, filter it naturally, store the water and use it for his live stock.

The Ulupalakua Ranch that Sumner manages, is also one that uses various animals such as sheep, goats and cattle to control weeds in their pastures. innovative Thus, through innovative pasture management, they are best able to increase their herds while keeping their pastures looking good. This Ranch is always looking for ways to improve their conservation and pasture management.

I think Sumner is a very good person for this position.

Sincerely,
Doug MacCluer
360 Hoopalua Dr.
Pukalani, Hi, 96768
phone- 808-572-7336

V.P. Maui Pine, Retired
Chairman Central Maui Conservation District
Chairman Maui Drought Mitigation Committee
Maui County Farm Bureau, Board Member
Maui Tropical Fruit Growers, Board Member
Maui County Water Committee, Member

From: James Robello [robelloj@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 4:16 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM516

Bill No. : GM 516
Committe: WTL
Date: 4/3/09
Time: 2:45 PM

Dear Chairperson Hee,

I support Sumner Erdman's nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Sumner's experience in agriculture, knowledge of the local water issues and his ability to deal easily with a variety of people will make him a strong commissioner.

James Robello

William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 473
Kula, Maui, Hi. 96790

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 516

Testimony

Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, SUMNER P. ERDMAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Chair Person Hee,

Please support Sumner P. Erdman, for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Sumner is a very knowledgeable person with many years of experience as a rancher. He has much to offer, and has shown in the past, his commitment to community needs.

Sincerely,
William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association President

**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
64-957 Mamalahoa Highway Ste2
Kamuela, Hawaii
96743**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Brooks and I am supplying this information on behalf of the members of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and our President Alan Gottlieb.

Our organization would like to make known its full support for Sumner Erdman's appointment to the Committee on Water Resource Management.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 1 Million acres of land in Hawaii, 25% of the State's total land mass.

As we have all watched the demise of many segments of the Hawaii livestock industry in recent years, including poultry, dairy and the struggling hog industry, policy makers have been asking the beef industry what we need to be able to sustain our businesses?

Reviewing the needs of our industry creates a short list of critical factors. At the top of that list are available land, markets that will embrace our home grown products and good water. HCC is working with your committee to make safe some of the state lands that our members use and we are constantly promoting and improving our product through increased marketing efforts and product improvement.

Water availability is one of the areas where we have little control and much responsibility. Many of the sources for fresh water supplies come from or through our ranch lands; we take pride in the stewardship that we provide to these sources.

As a result of his experience and leadership in watershed conservation, source protection and general knowledge, Mr. Erdman has earned our respect and trust. We could have no better representative for our industry, or for the Hawaii's broader agricultural family operations.

We believe that Sumner's appointment will provide us with a strong, wise voice representing cattle ranchers throughout the state and ask that you approve his nomination.

If you desire any further information please feel free to contact me.

John R. Brooks II
Contact information:
Email- bbrooks@haleakalaranch.com
Office: 808-572-1500
Cell: 808-757-2168
Address:
529 Kealaloa Avenue
Makawao, Hawaii

P.O. Box 8392
Honolulu, Hawaii 96830 U.S.A
Phone (808) 944-0655
Fax (808) 944-0830
nohfoods@nohfoods.com



P.O. Box 7513
Torrance, CA 90504 U.S.A.
Phone (310) 324-6770
Fax (310) 324-6163
gardena@nohfoods.com

NOH FOODS OF HAWAII

2043 So. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96826

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senate Committee,

I have known Mr. Sumner Erdman for the better part of thirty (30) years. As a friend and a fellow businessman, I can state without any reservation that Mr. Erdman has always been a person of good character and high integrity. Fairness and honesty is what comes to mind when I think of words to characterize Sumner.

I recall back a few years when the entire state of Hawaii was suffering from severe drought conditions. Farmers and ranchers were obviously hit the hardest. I was impressed with the sincere concern and thoughtfulness that Mr. Erdman expressed not only for his own livestock, but for every other rancher and farmer throughout our island state. He took an active role in communicating with and gaining information from other producers on each island.

Whether it be serving the state as a member of the Board of Agriculture, or coaching the youth of Hawaii, AYSO, Sumner Erdman has always exemplified a sincere compassion and seriousness for the task at hand.

You would be making a very sound and good decision by appointing Sumner Erdman to the State Commission on Water Resources.

Sincerely,

Raymond E. Noh

Raymond E. Noh
President
Noh Foods of Hawaii

March 31, 2009



First Hawaiian Bank

Mitchell E. Nishimoto
Senior Vice President &
Maui Region Supervisor

April 2, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you in support of the recommendation of Mr. Sumner Erdman to the State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resources Management. I have known Mr. Erdman for over 10 years on a personal and professional basis. Mr. Erdman is a knowledgeable entrepreneur, farmer and businessman with a wide skill set which will be an invaluable resource to your commission. Mr. Erdman is also an effective steward of our limited natural resources.

I wholeheartedly recommend his nomination. His passion and knowledge in the areas of water management will serve the commission well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Nishimoto", followed by a horizontal line.

Mitchell E. Nishimoto
Senior Vice President and Maui Region Supervisor

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as
MEMBER OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON
WATER RESOURCES
SUMNER P. ERDMAN

Presented before
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman

by

Dr. Donna R. Ching, Extension Specialist
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawaii at Manoa

I am pleased to contribute my expertise to the decision-making process on the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Sumner P. Erdman as a member of the State Commission on Water Resources. This statement does not represent a university position and does not conflict or interfere with my university responsibilities.

Sumner was a participant in Class IV of the Agricultural Leadership Program. The Program is sponsored jointly by the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii (ALFH) and the College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources. Participants from across the State are selected because they are leaders in industry, commodity or community organizations. As the coordinator of this statewide program since 1987, I have had the opportunity to work with many effective leaders.

Sumner Erdman is one of the best Ag Leaders I have ever had in my Program. He is enthusiastic, always a team player and has a commitment to serve his community. He also is willing to stand his ground on issues where he may have strong opinions that are not aligned with the majority. The Commission needs people like him who have these kinds of strengths.

Sumner has a sincere concern for agriculture and has provided leadership in several organizations who have, as their common focus, a commitment to strengthen the sector. He has contributed significantly to the ranching industry by serving in leadership roles in the Cattlemen's Association at the county level and in the Cattlemen's Council at the state level. Sumner has also served on the Board of Agriculture where he had a much wider exposure to sector issues. As a result of serving in these leadership roles, he has a good understanding of the many issues associated with water and will be able to thoughtfully represent the interests of the sector on the Commission.

Additionally, Sumner is someone who will do the homework necessary to be an informed member of the Commission. As a collaborative leader, he will work hard to assist the Commission in understanding the different interests as well as the implications of their decisions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for Mr. Erdman's confirmation.



HALEAKALA RANCH

• EST. MAUI 1888 •

March 31, 2009

Senate Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Commission on Water Resource Management Nominee – Sumner Erdman

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Haleakala Ranch Company strongly supports the nomination of Sumner Erdman to the State's Commission on Water Resource Management.

We believe Mr. Erdman would be an excellent addition to the Commission. As President of Ulupalakua Ranch, he is very familiar with the water issues that need to be addressed at both the State and County levels, and brings a wealth of knowledge related to his experience managing Maui's second largest cattle ranch with 20,000 acres of land and his active, lifelong involvement with Hawaii's agriculture and ranching industry.

Mr. Erdman and Ulupalakua Ranch have also demonstrated a strong commitment to land stewardship. Ulupalakua Ranch actively supports and partners with numerous organizations involved in the management and protection of important watersheds. Some of the notable affiliations in this regard include: US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Dept. of Geological Services/Biological Resource Division, US Dept. of Agriculture/Natural Resource Conservation Service, State of Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, the Native Hawaiian Plant Society, and the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership.

Your consideration and approval of Mr. Sumner Erdman's nomination to the Hawaii State Commission on Water Resource Management would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Don Young
President & CEO

Parker Ranch

March 31, 2009

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital
415 So. Beretania St
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Dear Senator Hee and Committee,

We ask that your committee approve the nomination of Sumner Erdman of Maui to the State of Hawaii Water Commission.

Sumner has become well versed in land and water issues as a rancher in Hawaii. He has been active in the cattle business organizations, both on the County and State level, as well as civic organizations on Maui. He is a good communicator and has a good understanding of the various points of view regarding water use and resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to recommend him for the position.

Aloha,


Michael "Corky" Bryan, Vice President
Livestock Operations

MACLAUGHLIN

463 Mikiioi Place Kihei, HI 96753 • Phone: (808) 879-6657 • Fax: (808) 875-8608

April 1, 2009.

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Sumner P. Erdman

Dear Committee Members:

Sumner Erdman will be a great addition to the State Water Commission. He has the skill set necessary to allow the Commission to fulfill its mission of protecting and enhancing the water resources in the state of Hawaii. He also is level-headed, practical, and passionate about the environment of Hawaii.

Sumner has been a community advocate for the preservation of our Native Hawaiian plants and has actively demonstrated this on Ulupalakua Ranch which he manages. He is keenly aware of the notion of "E malama o ke kai".

Sumner has given back to the Maui community in several ways. Over the past few years he hosted the agricultural event, "The Ulupalakua Thing". He also is actively involved at Seabury Hall as a soccer coach, parent, and Trustee.

Sumner is an effective communicator with good skills in persuasion and negotiation. He managed to negotiate with Shell Oil to begin a wind energy project in Ulupalakua.

Sumner is goal-oriented with a strong work ethic. He has worked tirelessly with the Maui Cattle Company to ensure quality control of the products of several Maui ranches.

If the Water Commission is looking for critical decision-makers, articulate thinkers, and skillful communicators, Sumner fits this profile. He will be an asset to the Commission and will represent the community of Maui and the State of Hawaii well.

I urge your strong consideration of Sumner P. Erdman.

Sincerely yours,

Cordelia Dowsett MacLaughlin
Trustee, H.M. Dowsett Trust
President, Seabury Hall Board of Trustees

**SEABURY HALL**

480 OLINDA ROAD, MAKAWAO HAWAII 96768
PH 808-572-7235 • FAX 808 572 7198
www.seaburyhall.org

March 31, 2009

**TO: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**FM: Joseph J. Schmidt, Headmaster
Seabury Hall, Maui, HI**

RE: Sumner Erdman Nomination for State Water Commission.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to write this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Sumner Erdman's nomination for the State Water Commission. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with him for the past fifteen years. My relationship with Mr. Erdman has been through his involvement in the school as a member of our distinguished Board of Trustees, the head coach of our girls' soccer team, a parent of a sixth grade student, and as an alumnus of the school.

As a member of our Board of Trustees, Mr. Erdman serves tirelessly on several board committees including the Development Committee, Faculty Professional Development Committee, and the Special Project Committee. He is fully engaged in the governance process and does an outstanding job of bringing insightful ideas, and informed understanding balanced with a healthy sense of humor. He has been instrumental in the success of our school through his leadership.

As a coach and alumnus, he brings the same level of expertise, commitment and dedication as a leader, philanthropist and is fully committed to providing all that he can to ensure that the school and its students reach their highest level of excellence.

Mr. Erdman has demonstrated his commitment to the welfare of the Maui community and the protection of its natural resources through his efforts throughout Maui County and the state. As a school head, I am most impressed with his desire to educate our children on

these issues when he presents his thoughts and ideas at our assemblies as they relate to issues regarding sustainability. During board meetings, it is clear that when the school is in the process of making an important decision, he weighs these decisions in the context of how they will best support the greater community. He understands how to maneuver between the political and business entities that are affected by important decisions with skill and acumen.

I do not believe that you could make any finer choice for this important position than to choose him for this responsibility.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph J. Schmidt
Headmaster, Seabury Hall



U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Haleakala Field Station, P.O. Box 369, Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768

Senate Committee on Water Resources Management

415 South Beretania

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

April 1, 2009

Aloha no:

First off let me introduce myself. I am Art Medeiros, research biologist with the Federal government on Maui since 1981, currently part of the Haleakala Field Station of the Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey. I am also Partnership Coordinator for the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership.

This is a letter of recommendation for Sumner Erdman to be a member of the State of Hawai'i Commission on Water Resources Management. I have known Sumner for over 20 years both as a friend and colleague.

I consider Sumner one of the most dedicated and intelligent of all the associates I have the privilege of working with. He has many traits which in my opinion make him remarkable and gifted, but several come to mind immediately. Sumner is extremely intelligent, capable of absorbing large amounts of information, and has the ability to recall critical information when needed. Sumner is skilled as a rancher and businessman yet more uniquely in combination with this, also has a good grasp on science and historical contexts. His vision of Hawai'i's potential, his dedication and statesmanship skills are rare and almost never seen in combination. He is hard-working, has extremely good judgment, easy going in team settings and, can be a confident and capable leader.

In my opinion, Sumner must be considered among the best of candidates for the Commission. He will provide clear benefits to any institution with which he is associated.

I highly recommend Sumner Erdman to be a member of the State of Hawai'i Commission on Water Resources Management

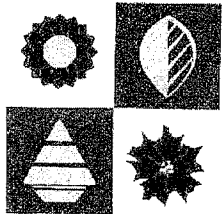
If you would like to ask any specific questions or enhance information given here, I would be happy to elaborate,

Yours sincerely, Art

Arthur C. Medeiros, Ph.D., Research Biologist

U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center

P.O. Box 369, Makawao, Hawai'i 96768



Howard's
Nurseries Inc.

April 2, 2009

Commission on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
145 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Gentlemen and Ladies:

This letter is proudly written to testify on behalf of Sumner Pardee Erdman. For 37 years, I have witnessed Sumner's development into one of Hawaii's finest cattlemen, an exceptional father and an outstanding citizen.

I was a young man of 17 years old when I began spending many hours with Sumner, teaching him to hunt, fish and farm. As a boy of 8 years old, he was always a curious soul, eager to learn new skills, all the while developing that deep appreciation for the land that will become his legacy. As a child, he had the soul of a true Hawaiian, someone who understood concepts of land custodianship, always respectful of the land and people. His disposition was always a kind one, considerate of others and generous of spirit...his character, honest and earnest.

Through the years, Sumner has used his resources and gifts well, always moving toward the best interests of the land, Maui and its people. His work to preserve, and restore native plant and wildlife on Maui is exemplary to any landowner. He has created a sustainable agriculture program on Maui with the branding and Island-wide distribution of Maui's beef. He is actively pursuing alternative energy solutions for Maui with wind energy trials on the Ranch. All of this is so typical of Sumner, his creativity and concern.

And of course, this man shows his character best with his family and friends. He is devoted to Angie and the girls, spending his free time as their soccer coach and just being around as their dad. As my friend, I value his judgment, his opinion and his aloha and my feelings are shared by all who know him.

I cannot imagine anyone better suited in character, commitment or qualifications to fill a chair on your commission than Sumner Erdman. He will bring a wealth of experience, a young perspective and enthusiasm to the program's goals and vision.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Y. Takishita
President

TESTIMONY
GM516
(END)