

TESTIMONY
GM516
LATE



Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

LATE TESTIMONY

April 2, 2009

State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Sumner P. Erdman – Commission on Water Resource Management: Reference # GM 516

Dear Chairman Hee and Senate Committee Members:

It was brought to my attention that Mr. Sumner P. Erdman was recently nominated by Governor Lingle for a position on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). By way of this letter I would like to submit my support of Mr. Erdman for this important position.

I have known Mr. Erdman for over many years and found him to be an honest and caring businessman. If appointed, I believe Mr. Erdman would make an excellent commissioner. He will openly listen to issues, not be afraid to ask the hard questions and fairly engage himself in decision making.

Mr. Sumner is knowledgeable on land and water issues, local needs, and conservation concerns. He brings with him years of business and agricultural experience. He has served many years on the Soil & Water Conservation Board of Central Maui and has shown a strong willingness to address community issues.

I believe Mr. Erdman will take the position on CWRM seriously and work dedicatedly for the best interest of all peoples of Hawaii.

Please accept my endorsement of Mr. Erdman for this important position.

Sincerely,

Wesley Nohara

General Manager

Maui Pineapple Co., Ltd



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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GM 516: COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE

SUMNER ERDMAN

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Maui County Farm Bureau, and all of our County Chapter Farm Bureaus is in strong support GM 516, seeking the confirmation of Mr. Sumner Erdman to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

How do you manage a ranch under extreme drought conditions? Mr. Erdman is the person you go to. Mr. Erdman as owner/proprietor of Ulupalakua Ranch has practical experience of how water must be managed when supplies are limited. At the end of the Upper Kula Line, Ulupalakua faces challenges not faced by others within the County Water System. Yet, Ulupalakua has remained viable. It has not been easy. It has meant getting creative and resourceful. It has meant having a questioning mind, looking into the unknown and searching for known information so the best decision can be made. This is important on the Commission –asking questions to make sure decisions are made based on facts and efforts are made to get the pertinent facts.

At the same time, Ulupalakua Ranch has taken leadership roles in promoting stewardship of the lands, exemplified by their role in the restoration of a Native Hawaiian Dryland forest. [http://biology.usgs.gov/pierc/Pollution & Ecological Restoration/Dryland restoration.pdf](http://biology.usgs.gov/pierc/Pollution_&EcologicalRestoration/Drylandrestoration.pdf) This endeavor demonstrates his ability to balance economic gain with environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Whenever we have fundraisers, Ulupalakua Ranch is ready to contribute. This characteristic is key to making decisions on the Commission where the interests of competing areas must be balanced for the welfare of Hawaii.

We feel Mr. Erdman has the qualities and characteristics needed to be a contributing member to the Commission. Farm Bureau respectfully urges the appointment of Mr. Erdman to the Commission.

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