

TESTIMONY
GM517

**Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs
April 3, 2009
Neal S. Fujiwara
Commission on Water Resource Management
GM 517**

Chair Hee, members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs. Thank you for having me before your committee for confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I believe you have a copy of my resume.

I was born and raised in Lahaina, Maui. I grew up in that once rural plantation town. I attended and graduated from Lahainaluna High School, whereby, I developed a liking to agriculture. I went on to Utah State University where I graduated with a BS in Plant Science/Agronomy.

I am 5 years retired from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The 32 years I spent with the agency on Maui, Molokai, and Kauai with responsibility to Niihau, Lanai and Kahoolawe made me aware of how different each island can be. The hands on or field approach we had with farmers, ranchers, plantations, taro growers and even urban landscapes gave me a first hand view of our natural resources.

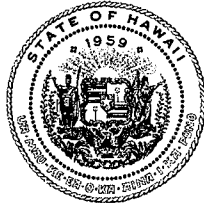
The last 3 ¼ years I spent on the Commission on Water Resource Management was a learning experience. I remember in the late 70's-early 80's, Mr. Ed Sakoda of the newly developed CWRM staff gave a briefing to our agency on their responsibilities. I believe they had 2-3 staff persons then, and I wondered how they could operate? It has been nearly 30 years since, and I can see the work that went into the data base they have accumulated. Yet, there is more to accomplish.

I have noticed the many irrigation systems, stock water pipelines, reservoirs I designed; several taro auwai ditch flows I measured, stream diversions I viewed, streams I hiked looking for non-point pollution sources, and developing water shed plans that included flood prevention and irrigation pipelines are directly in line with many of the issues before the commission.

The challenges before the commission are still many. Water is becoming an ever important issue, more so on the island of Maui. Agriculture was always the mainstay of surface water use throughout Hawaii. Today, we need to have a balance for the availability of water. Decisions do not come easy, however, we have the State Water Code to guide us and hopefully, some common sense to assist us.

I surely welcome another term on the Commission on Water Resource Management. I have been a civil servant throughout my working career and would continue serving the people of Hawaii honestly and fairly. I humbly ask for your support on my nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

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 517 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEAL S. FUJIWARA,
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. Neal S. Fujiwara 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." Mr. Fujiwara has been a member of the Commission since 2005. During his term, he has been involved in numerous water management decisions brought before the Commission. These include the designation of Na Wai Eha on Maui, the first surface water management area in the State; the establishment of interim instream flow standards for East Maui; the adoption of the 2008 Water Resource Protection Plan; and actions on water use permits from across the State.

Mr. Fujiwara retired as the Maui District Conservationist from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), after 32 years of government service. As Maui District Conservationist, his program areas covered the Islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe. After graduating from Utah State University in 1971, Mr. Fujiwara briefly worked for Pioneer Mill Sugar Co. before joining the USDA in 1972 as a

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

trainee on Maui. He was transferred to Molokai to assist in the local field office, where he established the Plant Materials Center in Hoolehua. During his career, Mr. Fujiwara also served as District Conservationist for Kauai and Soil Conservationist for Kauai County.

As Maui District Conservationist, Mr. Fujiwara administered a multitude of natural resources conservation programs to help reduce soil erosion, enhance and conserve water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. The NRCS partners with many federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as non-governmental entities to deliver their programs. Along with his extensive technical knowledge of irrigation systems and expertise in conservation and watershed planning, Mr. Fujiwara also brings a spirit of partnership and cooperation to the Commission.

I urge you to support the Governor's nomination of Mr. Neal S. Fujiwara to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



JEFFREY K. ENG
Director
ERIC H. YAMASHIGE, P.E., L.S.
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

April 2, 2009

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Email address: wlttestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Jill N. Tokuda, and Committee Members Robert Bunda, Carol Fukunaga, Russell S. Kokubun, Dwight Y. Takamine and Fred Hemmings:

Subject: GM 517 – Confirmation of Neal S Fujiwara as Commissioner on the Commission on Water Resource Management Public Hearing, Friday, April 3, 2009, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Neal S. Fujiwara for his second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission). I have known Neal for close to twenty years and I have been very fortunate that our professional paths crossed a number of times. Each time I was impressed by his professionalism, his integrity, his knowledge of the issues and, most of all, his respect for others and their opinions. I believe these characteristics have served the state well during his first term on the Commission and they will continue to be a benefit to the people of Hawaii in his second term.

The Commission deals with many complex and controversial issues, and it takes a special type of person - like Neal - who is willing and able to step forward and serve on the Commission. His people skills, objectivity and dedication to the community will truly be an asset to the people of Hawaii.

It is for these reasons that I highly recommend and urge you to support the confirmation of Neal S. Fujiwara to a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please do not hesitate to call me at (808) 270-7816.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey K. Eng in black ink.

JEFFREY K. ENG
Director

"By Water All Things Find Life"



Personal Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, April 3, 2009
by
Wayne Nishijima

GM 517 - RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

My name is Wayne Nishijima, and I serve as Associate Dean and Associate Director for Cooperative Extension of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide a personal recommendation in support of Mr Neal Fujiwara's nomination to a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management. This recommendation does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

The State Water Commission on Water Resource Management has a huge responsibility to protect and conserve water resources by monitoring, permitting, drought and water shortage planning, by administering the State Water Code and balancing the water needs for the general public and agriculture, while insuring the availability of water for traditional Hawaiian uses.

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Neal Fujiwara to a second term on the Commission. Although he has worked for 33 years in agriculture with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, he understands that water is essential for everyone that live, work, and visit Hawaii, and equally important to the land and environment. He also understands that the State Water Code guarantees the availability of water for traditional Hawaiian uses. Mr. Fujiwara understands the complexity of water issues and the importance of decisions made by the Water Commission. The first major decision on the Waiahole-Waikane case is yet to be completely settled by the Hawaii Supreme Court. The Commission's recent historic unanimous decision to order the release of at least 12.2 million gallons a day of water into eight East Maui streams which were diverted for other uses for many years is an example of the correctness of the thinking by Mr. Fujiwara and other Commission members.

I firmly believe that if confirmed to a second term to the State Water Commission on Water Resource Management, Mr. Fujiwara will continue to interpret the State Water Code correctly and make decisions appropriately.

Please give Mr. Fujiwara your fullest consideration to serve a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide personal recommendation for Mr. Neal Fujiwara.

Wayne Nishijima
377 Hualii Place
Hilo, HI 96720



Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

April 1, 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 Neal Fujiwara – Commission on Water Resource Management: Reference # GM 517

Dear Chairman Hee and Senate Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Mr. Neal Fujiwara for reappointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). Governor Lingle has nominated Mr. Fujiwara for a second term on CWRM and I believe that he will serve Hawaii well as a commissioner.

I have known Mr. Fujiwara for over 34 years and had worked with him on numerous conservation, environmental and community projects on Maui.

Mr. Fujiwara is a very knowledgeable about water issues, water systems, local needs, environmental and conservation concerns. He brings with him years of technical knowledge and practical application of field experience. He knows much about our people of Hawaii and the local environment.

While on Maui, he served as our USDA-NRCS District Conservationist. Mr. Fujiwara has a reputation of building strong teams of hard working people; developing interpersonal and technical skills, building strong ties with the community and getting the job done. He has proven to be hard working, honest and fair with everyone. Maui County has benefited greatly from Mr. Fujiwara and I see where the State of Hawaii now has the chance to benefit greatly by having him serve as a Commissioner on our Water Resource Management.

Please accept my endorsement of Mr. Fujiwara for this important nominated position.

Sincerely,

Wesley Nohara

General Manager

Maui Pineapple Co., Ltd

From: Doug MacCluer [norfolkldm@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 9:36 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: NSF
Subject: GM 517, State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resources Management

Dear Chair Clayton Hee and other members of the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture.

My name is Doug MacCluer and I urge your support for Neal Fujiwara being re-appointed to the Water Commission. Neal has a great deal of experience with soil and water in Hawaii as he spent 33 years with the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service before retiring a few years ago. Neal in the one that was sent to Kauai after the hurricane struck to try to straighten out the mess. He also has always been a firm believer of protecting the water and soil in our State.

I have had the pleasure of working for many years both professionally and as a volunteer with Neal and he has always been honest and knowledgeable. He is a fair man that always does his home work on the tasks he is working on. I strongly request your support of Neal for this position.

Sincerely,
Doug MacCluer

360 Hoopalua Dr.
Pukalani, Hi., 96768
Phone, 808-572-7336
Chairman Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District
Chairman , Maui Drought Mitigation Committee
Maui County Farm Bureau, Board Member
Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Board Member
Maui Pineapple Company Ltd, V.P. Retired

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 5004 Rm. 4-118
Honolulu, HI 96850
808-541-2600

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Senator Hee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Relating to GM517; Submitting for consideration and confirmation of Neal S. Fujiwara's nomination to a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management

Dear Senator Hee,

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service supports the work performed by the State of Hawaii's Commission on Water Resource Management. Although we are surrounded by water, the wise management of the Hawaii's water is one of the most important challenges facing our state. The decisions made by the commission affect residents of these islands today and into the future.

With this in mind, I believe that Neal S. Fujiwara's service for a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management will prove valuable to the State of Hawaii. Mr. Fujiwara had a 33 year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service leading our efforts to serve the communities on Molokai, Kauai and Maui. I believe it is this experience and technical knowledge that allows him to bring valuable insight to the commission and adds value during its decision making process.

I have personally worked with Mr. Fujiwara during his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has proven to be a hard working professional and has done much to conserve the natural resources of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence T. Yamamoto".

LAWRENCE T. YAMAMOTO
Director
Pacific Island Area

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**CONFIRMATION OF NEAL S. FUJIWARA
FOR
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
APRIL 03, 2009**

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

STRONG SUPPORT; GM 517

My name is Loren Mochida, General Manager for Tropical Hawaiian Products (THP) in Keaau, Hawaii. THP is a processor and exporter of Hawaiian Premium papayas to CONUS and Japan.

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Neal S. Fujiwara for the State Water Resources Commission. Along with his strong leadership skills, his organizational development has been exceptionally outstanding.

I have worked with Mr. Fujiwara while he was a District Conservationist. Besides being on temporary assignment in the Hilo Field Office, he also served on Kauai, Maui, and Molokai. Mr. Fujiwara has worked with various clients in designing and developing water systems throughout the State of Hawaii. He has also worked on pollution control systems associated with water and sedimentation.

Mr. Fujiwara is an active community member and has given copious support to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) throughout the State of Hawaii. Mr. Fujiwara also served the sugar industry for a few years as an Irrigation Specialist converting furrow irrigation to the more efficient drip irrigation systems. His ability to relate and work with various groups was outstanding. It is with personal confidence that Mr. Fujiwara will be a dedicated agriculture person on the Commission on Water Resources Management.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for the confirmation of Mr. Neal Fujiwara as a member of the State Water Resources Commission.



Letter of Recommendation to the
Senate Committee on
Water, Land Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
GM 517 – Neal S. Fujiwara

My name is Alton H. Miyamoto and I am the President of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and I support the confirmation of Neal S. Fujiwara to his second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management. I have known Neal since childhood in Lahaina, Maui. Neal has always shown an interest in agriculture. He has spent 33 years in the field of agriculture with the USDA-Natural Conservation Service and a year with the sugar plantation. He has always shown a commitment to serve the public interest and putting his expertise to use with the complex issues before the Commission on Water Resource Management is a natural fit.

Neal has also shown his dedication and commitment to the Hongwanji organization. I am confident that Neal will carry that same dedication and commitment in fulfilling the responsibilities of his second term on the Commission on Water and Resource Management. I fully support his confirmation for a second term.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alton Miyamoto". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the text area.

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April 1, 2009

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

RE: Neal S. Fujiwara, gubernatorial nominee to the Commission on Water Resource Management (GM 517)

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

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Neal S. Fujiwara to a second term as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

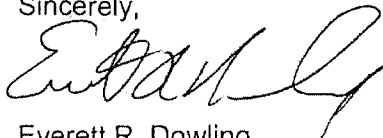
As the former Maui District Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Mr. Fujiwara has administered numerous natural resource conservation programs for Maui in areas such as soil erosion, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, and increasing wildlife habitats. His tenure with the NRCS also provided him with an understanding of development issues, as he was the principle person reviewing and commenting on land use entitlement applications, subdivisions, and grading permits on their behalf.

Further, Mr. Fujiwara's extensive experience in the agricultural industry, gained through his service with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Pioneer Mill Company, provides the Commission with valuable insight to one of the largest water consumer industries in the State.

I fully support the nomination of Mr. Neal S. Fujiwara to the Commission on Water Resource Management and I am confident that he will continue to be a valuable asset to the Commission and the State of Hawaii. I strongly urge you to support the confirmation of Mr. Fujiwara to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,



Everett R. Dowling
President
Dowling Company, Inc.

ERD:jek

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

From: James Robello [robelloj@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 4:21 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Re: GM517

Bill No. : GM 517
Committee: WTL
Date: 4/3/09
Time: 2:45 PM

Dear Chairperson Hee,

I support Neal Fujiwara's nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Neal's experience with CWRM, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, agriculture and knowledge of the statewide water issues will make him a strong commissioner.

James Robello

From: Shigemoto, Tom at Kukui'Ula [tshigemoto@abprop.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 4:48 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: NSF
Subject: Neal S. Fujiwara - State Water Commission appointment

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senate - Water, Land and Agriculture Committee
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Mr. Neal Fujiwara
State Water Commission appointment

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Mr. Neal Fujiwara who is being considered for re-appointment to the State Water Commission. I have known Mr. Fujiwara for 33 years, from the time he was a U.S. Soil Conservation specialist here on Kauai. He is now retired and is doing part time farming and caring for his parents on Maui.

My professional involvement with Neal stems back to the early '70's when I was a County planner with the County of Kauai Planning Department. Many of our land use initiatives and planning efforts involved the federal and state agencies such as the USDA, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), DLNR and even the Army Corps of Engineers in some cases. I had first hand experiences with Neal in his dealings with the Soil Conservation Districts and the Service's efforts to aid the large farmers as well as the independent growers to address and resolve various water related issues including source distribution, drainage and erosion control measure and conservation. I have first hand knowledge that he was personally involved in applying for grants to assist in these efforts.

I am currently employed by Alexander and Baldwin Properties, Inc. and understand the importance of the State Water Commission, especially in the arena of land development. I know it is important for the commission to balance water allocations for various uses and feel that Neal has the ability to listen to the various factions and to make that hard but fair decision.

The whole point of this discussion is that this man understands the myriads of issues involving the cause and effects of water. His whole life has been devoted to assisting land owners and users to understand the importance of protecting the watersheds, to promote the prudent use of this precious resource and to protect the vital systems in place for the perpetuation of our critical agricultural industries. He is not a politician, he is not a union advocate, he is not a real-estate developer. He is an implementer, a highly regarded water technician, a protector of our watershed environment, someone whose prime interest is to promote the fair and equitable use of our water resources.

His resume speaks for itself. From the technical standpoint I don't think there is anyone more qualified than Mr. Fujiwara to sit on the Water Commission. In my association with him, he has proven to be extremely fair in his actions. He does not have any biases for water use or development and will be an asset to the Commission with his technical knowledge of all water systems.

Thank you for your consideration for this extremely conscientious and dedicated person. He has proven his commitment to whichever community he resides in and I believe he will be an invaluable asset to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Tom H. Shigemoto

A&B Properties, Inc.
Tom H. Shigemoto
Vice President
tshigemoto@abprop.com
Phone: (808) 335-2836
Fax: (808) 335-9708

=====
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From: Aileen Cockette [buzz.aileen@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 8:00 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM517

I would like to recommend Neal Fujiwara as a member on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have know Neal Fujiwara throughout his school years till present. He has done much for the youth sports as well as given support throughout the community. His background clearly is an asset to this committee as well as the State of Hawaii.

I am sorry it is late, but we had a fundraiser at our temple and I did not check my mail till today.

Please feel free to contact me for further information (c 808-268-3542).

Sincerely,

Aileen Cockett/President, Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

From: Ihanamaulu@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 9:42 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: Maggie.Kramp@hi.nacdnet.net
Subject: Appointment of Neal S. Fujiwara to State Commission on Water Resource Management

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

East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District highly recommends Mr. Neal S. Fujiwara to a second term on the State Commission on Water Resource Management. Mr. Fujiwara has extensive experience in water resource management and natural resources conservation through his thirty-three years of service with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the USDA Soil Conservation Service). He served on Kauai for sixteen years for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, four years as Soil Conservationist and twelve years as District Conservationist. During his tenure on Kauai, he gained valuable knowledge about Kauai's water systems and he helped design irrigation systems for many of our farmers and taro growers. His advice on natural resources conservation and water resource management helped us greatly in our effort to promote natural resources conservation on Kauai. It was our good fortune to have this dedicated individual serve as our conservation partner.

We feel Mr. Fujiwara's reappointment to the State Commission on Water Resources Management with his background and long years of experience in water resource management and natural resources conservation would be a big help to that Commission and the State of Hawaii.

With warmest aloha,

Ted Inouye, Chairperson
East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District

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April 2, 2009

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
The Senate
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture,
and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

Subject: Governor's Message 517 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial
Nominee, NEAL S. FUJIWARA, for a Term to Expire 6-30-2013

Aloha Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs. I would like to express my strong support for Neal S. Fujiwara and his confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

I have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Mr. Fujiwara in my prior capacity as the Acting Deputy Director to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). During his tenure on the CWRM, I found Mr. Fujiwara to be extremely supportive of CWRM staff and of the many program initiatives undertaken by CWRM to carry out its critical statewide water resource responsibilities.

Mr. Fujiwara's efforts have been both innovative and visionary in helping to sustain Oahu's ground water resources, as demonstrated by his advocacy of water conservation and the use of recycled water. I sincerely applaud his commitment and long-range goals for sustaining our Islands' important natural resources and commend his praiseworthy enthusiasm towards pursuing and achieving the goals/objectives of the CWRM.

The position of CWRM commissioner is a truly challenging and demanding position. I am confident that given the opportunity, Mr. Fujiwara will continue to carry forth his role and responsibilities in a admirable manner and that he will be able to implement statewide program measures that will have a positive and lasting effect for generations to come.

In light of the above, I respectfully request your Committee's support of Neal S. Fujiwara's confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I am sure that he will serve the public positively in protecting our State's important natural resources and will continue to be a tremendous advocate for the environment.

Very truly yours,



DEAN A. NAKANO

TESTIMONY
GM517
(END)