

TESTIMONY
GM517
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Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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GM 517: COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE

NEAL S. FUJIWARA

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 517, seeking the confirmation of Mr. Neal Fujiwara to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mr. Fujiwara played a key role in helping develop new sources of water on Maui. His expertise was critical to obtain funding for the construction of the Kahakapao Reservoirs in Upcountry Maui, the Upcountry Maui Dual Line and the many SWCD projects that control sediment flow into the bays around Maui. The design of these projects has required the knowledge of the various aquifer systems.

During this term, the Commission will be faced with many issues that involve technical detail. The Commissions must be able to understand the issues to make good decisions. They will need to comprehend critical concepts and know when to ask staff for further information. The decisions have long range implications affecting many people. It is important that there are reasonable efforts to gather all pertinent information to make those decisions. Mr. Fujiwara has had to walk that road personally, as he has recommended projects for Federal Funding. We believe this experience will serve him well.

We respectfully request your strong support for the nomination of Mr. Fujiwara to the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

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April 1, 2009

State Senate
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Hee and Members of Committee:

Reference # GM517

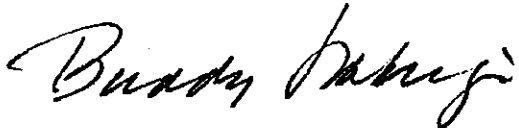
Neal S. Fujiwara will face your honorable Body on Friday, April 3, 2009 to be reappointed to the water commission.

He spent 33 years with USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Spent a few years as Kauai Island Conservationist until an opening for the Maui Conservationist became available, which he accepted to come home to his home island. A Lahaina Boy.

Having spent 52 years in West Maui SWCD, I have worked with this man in all his 33 years. My opinion, being a former Water Commission Member for 7 years and served on the Waihole contested hearing as one of the 4 hearing officers, Neal Fujiwara will be one of the best commissioners we've ever had with your approval.

Thank you,



Buddy Nobriga

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