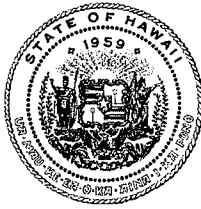


TESTIMONY
GM534

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 534 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RONALD RAPANOT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE
6-30-2013**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 534 to appoint Mr. Ronald Rapanot to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Per the requirements of Section 195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Mr. Rapanot, a resident of Moloka'i, is an active member of the hunting community, and is being appointed as the hunter representative to represent hunting interests on the Commission.

The responsibilities of the Commission include advising the Board of Land and Natural Resource and the Governor on matters that have to do with the protection and enhancement of native ecosystems in as unmodified a condition as possible, to review, consider and make recommendations for strengthening the Natural Area Reserves System, as well as to review and recommend management plans, policies, and permitted uses within the Natural Area Reserves System.

Mr. Rapanot is a graduate of Moloka'i High School, and is now retired after a 35 year career with the Electric Company. He is the President of Moloka'i Hunters Association, serves as Moloka'i Hunters Advisory Council Representative, and is a representative on the Moloka'i Hunter Working Group. Mr. Rapanot brings a unique perspective to the Commission from the hunting community of Moloka'i, as well as other hunters across the State. He has worked with The Nature Conservancy for the Moloka'i Hunting Group to seek a balance between resource protection and the interests of hunters and finding the ways to integrate such diverse points of view. Mr. Rapanot will be the first person to serve on the Commission from Moloka'i, and he is most familiar with the Department's Pu'u Ali'i and Oloku'i Natural Area Reserves, and The Nature Conservancy's Pelekunu and Kamakou Preserves, which are participants in the Natural Area Partnership Program administered through our Department.

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

The Department supports G.M. 534 on the appointment of Mr. Ronald Rapanot, to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, and looks forward to working with him in the future.

TESTIMONY

GM534

(END)