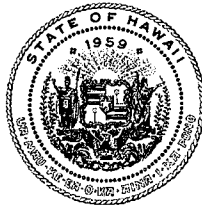


TESTIMONY
GM535

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

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 535 to appoint Dr. John Maynard Sinton to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Per the requirements of Section 195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Dr. Sinton, possesses scientific qualifications evidenced by an undergraduate degree in Geology, a Masters in Geology, and a Ph.D. in Geology; and is being appointed to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission to serve as the Geology representative.

The responsibilities of the Natural Area Reserves System 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.

Dr. Sinton, a resident of O`ahu, is a Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawai`i Manoa. His particular expertise is in igneous petrology, volcanology, Hawaiian geology, marine geology, geochemistry of volcanic materials used in Polynesian tool making, and geochemical analysis using x-ray fluorescence. He has broad field experience in geological field mapping in Canada, New Zealand, Hawai`i, and Iceland and archaeological field work in Hawai`i, Marquesas, Ra`iatea, Rurutu and Easter (Rapa Nui) Islands, and is familiar with many areas of geological importance across the State, developed during more than 30 years on the faculty of the University and provides a very important perspective for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

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. 535 on the appointment of Dr. John Maynard Sinton to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and looks forward to working with him in the future.

U N I V E R S I T Y O F H A W A I I ' I A T M Ā N O A

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Department of Geology and Geophysics

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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

4/1/09

To: Senator Hee, Chair, Committee on Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: GM 535

Fr: Chip Fletcher, Professor and Chair

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members,

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. John Sinton to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission.

John is a professor of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has produced an internationally prominent career in volcanology, geochemistry, and petrology characterized by numerous interdisciplinary partnerships, and is one of the very top experts on the geology of the Hawaiian Islands. John is also a beloved teacher of highly respected courses in our department to both graduate and undergraduate students.

But above and beyond these traditional university activities, John has always had a deep love of the land and ocean in Hawaii and other Pacific islands and has mixed this with knowledge of traditional cultures and land use. John is a very collegial and community-oriented professional who works constructively with people and is goal-oriented and respectful in group settings.

As a member of the Hawaii public and a scientist, I am confident that my interests will be well-represented by having John on the commission. He will provide important benefits in the decision-making process behind maintaining, conserving, and expanding Hawaii's natural areas. I know that he will be a principled member of the NARS Commission, will serve with distinction, and will provide expert geological knowledge in the context of enhancing conservation and public access to Hawaii's most precious asset – our natural lands.

From: James P Kauahikaua [jimk@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:19 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: letter is in support of GM 535, Consideration and Confirmation of John Sinton, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission by the Committee on Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs.

To whom it may concern,

I whole-heartedly support the addition of Dr. John Sinton to the NARS commission. John has an extensive knowledge of Hawaiian geology having mapped on various Hawaiian volcanoes himself or with students over his many years at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He has also worked extensively at volcanoes outside Hawai'i allowing him to put Hawai'i issues in an international perspective.

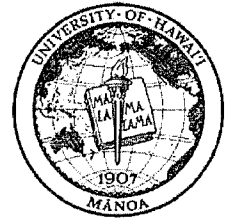
I have also known him to be very aware of issues relating to native cultures in his work in Hawai'i and other areas of the world. He is easy to work with, articulate, but very deliberate in decisions weighing all relevant evidence before coming to a conclusion.

In my opinion, John Sinton would be a worthy addition to the NARS commission.

jim kauahikaua, Scientist-in-Charge
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School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Department of Geology & Geophysics



Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

April 1, 2009

Dear Senator Hee and colleagues,

It is my pleasure to write in support of John Sinton's nomination as the geological representative on the Natural Area Reserves Commission (NARSC). Dr. Sinton's nomination is item GM 535 on the agenda for your committee's April 3, 2009 meeting. I am about to finish serving my second term as the geological representative on the NARSC, so Dr. Sinton is being nominated to replace me.

Dr. Sinton has been a mentor and friend of mine for many years. He has conducted important geological research onshore and offshore of all the major Hawaiian islands (except Ni'ihau, I believe), and therefore has a very deep understanding of Hawaiian geology. He also therefore is very familiar with Hawai'i's geography, and will therefore be able to visualize the juxtaposition of various land parcels, which is a common topic of the NARSC. Dr. Sinton is also one of the best instructors in the Dept. of Geology & Geophysics, which is important in the NARSC context because it means that he has a good ability to explain geological concepts to diverse listeners. In his research and teaching, Dr. Sinton has developed a very deep appreciation and love for Hawai'i's native flora and fauna, and has become quite an amateur botanist - this appreciation will mean that he will have the best interest of the Natural Areas in mind when he makes a decision. Finally, Dr. Sinton has a very deep appreciation for Hawaiian culture, and as the NARSC becomes more in tune with this important aspect of public policy, he will be able to provide a knowledgeable, fair, and insightful perspective.

In short, I cannot think of anyone who has better qualifications to be the NARSC geological representative, and I hope that you will vote favorably on his nomination. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Rowland
Specialist

TESTIMONY
GM535
(END)