

TESTIMONY
GM596

Rev. Deacon Thomas Contrades

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April 8, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senate, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

Thank you for your letter of congratulations on my reappointment. Although the commitment of personal time is at times unbelievable, I consider it an honor to serve the people of Hawaii in the capacity of State Land Use Commissioner.

Enclosed are a copy of my resume and a list of references.

In response to your questions, I offer the following:

- (a) My most important contribution to the Land Use Commission is the knowledge and experience that I have accumulated over my many years of public service not only as a planning commissioner on Kauai and a Hawaiian Homes commissioner but also as a member of the many other non-profit boards and commissions that I have had the privilege of serving on. Through the years I have had the opportunity to meet and befriend many people in public service and have learned a great deal from these friendships.
- (b) I don't know about having any unique qualities but my work experience as a business agent and advocate for the working man gives me a different perspective than most people when it comes to affordable housing. Also, as a business agent for the ILWU, I spent a great deal of time with agricultural workers, which gave me an appreciation of agricultural land.
- (c) The best example of an action that I took that best describes my philosophical view on land use is my vote on the Molokai Ranch FEIS. Even if I knew that the ranch would close, I would still have voted against accepting the FEIS.
- (d) The single most important action that the government can take to improve my vision of the Land Use Commission is to decide that the commission serves a purpose and fund the department properly or say it no longer serves a purpose and do away with the commission. The department presently has five employees. Every year the Legislature comes up with new regulations but no money to hire people to assist in deciphering the intent of the regulations and enforcing the regulations. How does anyone expect all this work to be done?

- (e) In all honesty, there are many tasks before us that are important but I would choose the Important Agricultural Land (IAL) designation as the biggest task before us. Although A&B has presented and gotten approval for their designation of their Kauai lands, not all applications will go as smoothly.
- (f) I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest arising during my term but if any did arise I would recuse myself from acting on any application that would present a possible conflict.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I look forward to seeing you at the confirmation hearing.

God bless.

Rev. Deacon Thomas Contrades

Rev. Deacon Thomas Contrades

Kauai member

State Land Use Commission

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

April 15, 2009

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

GM 596

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, THOMAS P. CONTRADES
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013.**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

As the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, to which the Land Use Commission is administratively attached, I offer my strong support for the reappointment of Thomas P. Contrades to the Land Use Commission (“Commission”).

By way of background, Mr. Contrades is retired from his career as a Business Agent for the ILWU, Local 142, Kauai, a position that he held from 1981 to 2002. His record of community involvement is remarkable and continuing. This includes service to 1) the Aloha Council—Boy Scouts of America, 2) the Immaculate Conception Parish in which he serves as an Ordained Deacon, and 3) Na Kupaa O Kuhio a non-profit corporation in which he is the President of the Board of Directors. Mr. Contrades also has been a member of the Hawaiian

Homelands Commission, a member of the Kauai Planning Commission, and a Director the United Way of Kauai (Board President), among other organizations.

The Land Use Commission deals with a number of controversial, community based issues and matters on a continuing basis. Mr. Contrades' strong professional and community background is of tremendous benefit to the Commission when faced with tough decisions.

Mr. Contrades was previously confirmed by the Senate for a term that ends on June 30, 2009. On behalf of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Contrades confirmation to the Land Use Commission for an additional term.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
Lieutenant Governor

THEODORE E. LIU
Director

MARK K. ANDERSON
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai'i

ORLANDO "DAN" DAVIDSON
Executive Officer

BERT K. SARUWATARI
Senior Planner

FRED A. TALON
Drafting Technician

April 15, 2009

Statement of

Orlando (Dan) Davidson

Executive Officer, Land Use Commission

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

GM 596

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
THOMAS P. CONTRADES**

To the Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and the Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Dan Davidson, and I am the Executive Officer of the Land Use Commission ("LUC"), and on behalf of the LUC, I am here to respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Thomas P. Contrades to serve as Commissioner for an additional four-year term ending on June 30, 2013.

Mr. Contrades has a remarkable record of public and community service; as demonstrated in his resume and as highlighted in Director Liu's written testimony. Given the difficult community issues that the Commission faces, Mr. Contrades' experience allows him to carefully and fairly weigh the different points of view that are presented. In addition, Mr. Contrades brings a basic sense of reasonableness and clear thinking to the Commission. These qualities are important in view of the sometimes convoluted arguments put forward to the Commission.

Serving on the LUC requires a tremendous commitment in terms of time and priorities, more so than most other boards and commissions, and Mr. Contrades has already demonstrated commitment to fulfilling his responsibilities as a Commissioner.

Mr. Contrades is highly respected by his fellow Commissioners, and we are confident given the opportunity, Mr. Contrades will continue to serve on the LUC with distinction.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Contrades nomination to serve as Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this Committee.

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUAI
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

April 15, 2009
2:45 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GM 596**, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE THOMAS P. CONTRADES TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Thomas P. Contrades to the Land Use Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Mr. Contrades is well known and respected on our island for his involvement and public service to the community. I have worked with Mr. Contrades on numerous occasions and feel confident that he possesses the credentials and experience needed to serve on this Commission.

I humbly ask you to confirm Mr. Contrades' nomination and thank you for the opportunity to present my comments on this matter.

TESTIMONY
GM596
(END)