

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 234 / GM 235**

W.D. BALFOUR, JR.  
98-1529 Akaaka Street  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
808-487-6474

February 15, 2010

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management  
G.M. Nos. 234 and 235

Dear Senator Hee,

In reply to your letter of February 10, 2010, attachment (1) is submitted as requested.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

W. D. BALFOUR, JR.

**WRITTEN STATEMENT ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?

**Given my background and my stage in life, I feel that I can make a significant contribution to an extremely important state commission.**

- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?

**Water is one of the world's most important resources. There is basically a static supply and an ever-increasing demand which requires thoughtful and rational decisions in its management. Thus, I perceive the commission's role is to make thoughtful and rational decisions in the management of this resource.**

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

**I spent 40 years in the sugar industry and managed four irrigated plantations over a span of years. Water was always a major part of that management. We had extensive ditch and reservoir systems. We monitored levels and flows and made basic management decisions daily on levels and flows. I know water - the management of and certainly the great importance of this resource.**

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

**To give thoughtful and rational input to decisions that will be made.**

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Commission on Water Resource Management?

Honesty, straightforwardness and rational/logical

- Honesty: You ask a question; you will get an honest answer. I will not lie to anyone.
- Straightforwardness: What you see, is what you got. I say what I think and believe in. I'm not afraid to be the contrary voice.
- Rational/logical: I am careful to gather the facts. Go see for myself then make what I consider a rational/logical decision.

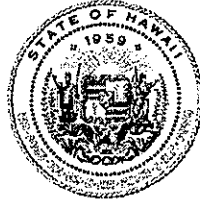
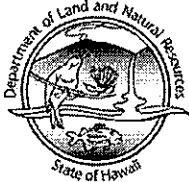
- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Commission on Water Resource Management?

In 17 years as President and Manager of Oahu Sugar Company, I made money when very few other companies did. Employing the qualities described above among others, I would expect that as a commission, we would make thoughtful and rational decisions.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Commission on Water Management? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest at the present. I would reclude myself from any subject process should any conflicts of interest arise.

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**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
2:45 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 234 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANGEMENT,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., FOR A TERM TO  
EXPIRE 6-30-2010**

On behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), I would like to express my support of the confirmation of Mr. William D. Balfour Jr. to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission).

The Commission is required under 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 solicits 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." In accordance with the nominating process, Mr. Balfour was selected by the Governor to serve as an interim commissioner starting in August 2009. In this capacity, he has brought a thoughtful and rational management perspective to numerous complex water management decisions.

Mr. Balfour is a graduate of the University of Missouri (1957) with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture, and has completed post graduate study with the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association and Stanford University's Executive Management Programs.

Mr. Balfour has extensive experience overseeing and managing the water systems and sources for several of Hawaii's largest sugar plantations. He began his career with American Factors (AMFAC) in 1959 as Agricultural Research Director and held numerous managerial

**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

positions before becoming President and Manager of Oahu Sugar Company, a position which he held for 17 years. He also served as President and Manager of Lihue Plantation Company and Pioneer Mill Company before retiring from AMFAC in 1995. Mr. Balfour then went on to work for Alexander and Baldwin as Consulting General Manager for McBryde Sugar Company. In addition to his corporate work experience, Mr. Balfour brings to the Commission a small business perspective, having served for two years as President of Aloha Farms, a start-up banana farm operation. Mr. Balfour's impressive work history also includes public service as Director of Parks and Recreation for eight years and Civil Defense Administrator for two years in the City and County of Honolulu. He remains engaged with water and agricultural issues in his present capacity as an Agricultural Consultant.

The State of Hawaii would truly benefit from the knowledge and experience Mr. Balfour would bring to the Commission. The Department strongly supports and urges the Senate to confirm the appointment of Mr. William D. Balfour Jr. to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

TESTIMONY ON GM 234, CONFIRMATION OF BILL BALFOUR TO THE COMMISSION  
ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I fully support your consideration and early confirmation of Bill Balfour as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

As the first Deputy Director for the Water Commission, I am familiar with the history of the Water Code from its early inception calling for the need for a central entity to manage and protect Hawaii's water resources. Subsequent actions by the first State Water Commission appointed by Governor Ariyoshi and the 1978 amendment of the State Constitution resulted in the enactment of the current Water Code as HRS 174C.

Bill Balfour, as the Manager of the Oahu Sugar Company in the 1970's, managed two major water sources for the plantation, the Pearl Harbor aquifer and the Waiahole Ditch system. Knowledge of these two sources was critical in the deliberations of forming the provisions of the Water Code. Mr. Balfour participated in the deliberations and contributed much of the management provisions contained in the Water Code today. His background and intimate knowledge of practical field application of water use will substantially add to the Commission in making their critical decisions that affects our communities.

On a personal note, I know of Bill Balfour's concise decision making ability. That can be attributed to his experience as a Plantation Manager for many years. Water Commission decisions often requires this ability to make difficult decisions after the affected parties have had the opportunity to provide comments on the case at hand.

Based on his knowledge of Hawaii's water resources, his personal experience in managing water systems and his ability to make difficult decisions, Bill Balfour is highly qualified to serve as a member of the State Water Resource Management as required by the Water Code. I urge the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs to confirm Mr. Bill Balfour as a member of the State Water Resource Management.

*(S) Manabu Tagomori*

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Manabu Tagomori, P.E., F.ASCE  
3035 Hiehie Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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**From:** LesnLouise Yee Hoy [yeehoyl001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2010 6:27 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** GM235 Hearing at 2:45pm 2-17-2010

Aloha Chair and committee members:

I'm testifying against the appointment of William Balfour to the Water Commission. I'm a native Hawaiian taro farmer on Kuleana lands. Is there any person on the commission that is looking at protecting not only the rights of us Hawaiians, but the rights of all taro farmers? Protecting the farmers right to water, protects the streams and vice versa. I don't know Mr. Balfour personally, but after reading about his long background with the sugar industry, I would have to conclude that he's not that person. Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Les YeeHoy





## **Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743  
Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607  
e-mail: [HICattlemens@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HICattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

### **GM 235**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, **WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR.**, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

**Wednesday, February 17, 2009 2:45 pm, Room 229**

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** GM 235 nominating Bill Balfour to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have personally known Mr. Balfour for 20 years. During that time I have always felt that Mr. Balfour was intelligent, well spoken, and very knowledgeable of the issues which affect the agricultural industry, and of the highest integrity. He is very knowledgeable about water issues in the State of Hawaii, and will be an excellent member of the Commission on Water Resource Management. Mr. Balfour is not one to mince words and he is not a wallflower. He is not afraid to speak about what is on his mind. On every issue I have ever seen him deal with, he has been tough but always fair.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 235 nominating Bill Balfour to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

February 15, 2010

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
State Senate

**Re: GM 234 & GM 235 – In Strong Support of Senate’s Confirmation  
of William D. Balfour Jr.**

Dear Senator Hee and Committee members:

I, Roy Amemiya am testifying as a private individual in strong support of William “Bill” Balfour, Jr. to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Bill’s long record as a leader in Hawaii’s sugar industry, followed by a second career in public service, makes him an ideal candidate for the position to which he has been appointed.

I had the pleasure of working with Bill as a fellow cabinet member when he was City Parks Director. His no nonsense and common sense approach to challenging problems was a refreshing contrast to the bureaucratic methods of other directors. Additionally, Bill has always demonstrated a strong concern for the future of our people, and will consider the “big picture” if given the opportunity to serve.

Please take favorable action on Bill Balfour’s nomination to the Water Commission.

Aloha,

Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.



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

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

## TESTIMONY

**GM 234/GM235: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2010.**

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

HFBF on behalf of our member farm and ranch families and organizations **strongly supports** the confirmation of William Balfour Jr. to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Responsibilities on the Water Commission are significant. It involves careful analysis of information received from the staff and public to reach a fair and equitable decision. This means balancing various interests while understanding the technical aspects of the issue. Mr. Balfour's background provides a basis for understanding the complexities associated with water resources in the State. He can ask the hard questions that need to be answered to reach a good decision.

Agriculture's future is dependent upon water. We therefore feel that we have a very serious stake in this decision. This is a very significant example of public policy to support the industry ...we need people who understand what agriculture needs to grow and raise products to significantly impact Hawaii's level of self sufficiency.

Our farmers go through tremendous turmoil as cost of inputs rise astronomically while the prices they are able to receive increase only by a blip. They struggle to survive but continue because they find joy and value in growing crops and raising animals. And, it is not just for their own lifestyle or to provide for their family. It is to provide for the rest of Hawaii. There are too many fair weather friends for the industry. What we need are real people who understand the industry so they can be relied on as times are difficult.

Our farmers and ranchers cannot afford to spend hours explaining their water needs ...who will tend the fields and livestock. We need people who have a basic understanding of agriculture's need for water.

We respectfully request your support in confirming Mr. Balfour on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

## hee3 - Michael

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 8:19 AM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** berth@jamescampbell.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM235 on 2/17/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/17/2010 2:45:00 PM GM235

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bert Hatton  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 7529 Puu Mahoe Pl Honolulu, Hi 96825  
Phone: 808-333-2705  
E-mail: [berth@jamescampbell.com](mailto:berth@jamescampbell.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

**Comments:**

William D. Balfour will be a fair minded member on the Water Commission and will bring years of experience in water usage and conservation to the table.

Thank You

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**From:** ILWU Local 142 Secretary- Venus [secretaries@ilwulocal142.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony re GM234 and GM235

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010

The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 2:45 p.m.

### **STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON GM 234/GM 235**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports GM 234 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM D. BALFOUR, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2010 and GM 235 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM D. BALFOUR, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

The ILWU Local 142 represents some 20,000 members living and working throughout the State of Hawaii in many different occupations and industries, along with their families and our retirees.

Bill Balfour has worked as a plantation manager on Kauai and Oahu. He was the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City and County of Honolulu under the administration of Mayor Jeremy Harris. He also was a private agricultural consultant after he left public service. He has private and public sector experience. He is extremely knowledgeable regarding water issues. We have spent many years on the "other side of the table" from Bill Balfour in collective bargaining and contract administration. Bill Balfour has shown that he is fair and balanced in reaching decisions and willing to work towards a principled solution to difficult problems.

We urge the members of the Committee to recommend confirmation of Bill Balfour to two terms on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

The hotel industry long opposed the imposition of a hotel room tax as detrimental to Hawaii in a highly competitive worldwide tourism market. However, with the need to fund the building of the Hawaii Convention Center and the allocation of dedicated funding for Hawaii tourism promotion, the establishment of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) made sense. As part of that consensus, a portion of the TAT collected was allocated to the Counties. 44.8% of the total is allocated and distributed by formula among the Counties -- 14.5% to the County of Kauai, 18.6% to Hawaii County, 22.8% to the County of Maui and 44.1% to the City and County of Honolulu. The allocation recognizes that there is a direct and indirect impact on the Counties from the tourism industry and that the TAT is collected from hotel room rentals from throughout the State of Hawaii, while the Hawaii Convention Center is physically located on Oahu.

While it is understandable that the current fiscal crisis in the State of Hawaii has led to the consideration of many different options in order to fill the shortfall in the State budget and it is noteworthy that is this about a three year suspension of the distribution of the Counties' share of the TAT, not a repeal, nevertheless, we have great concern about the negative impact on the Counties, that in general have only one option to raise income, and in particular the neighbor island Counties, which have experienced a disproportional impact from the economic downturn.

For the ILWU Local 142, over half of our membership work in the tourism industry, and about 75% to 80% of our members live and work on the neighbor islands.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

MONSANTO HAWAII

February 17, 2009

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

2:45 pm

TESTIMONY ON  
GM 234 AND GM 235  
WILLIAM D. BALFOUR, JR

Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Fred Perlak and I am the Vice-President of Research and Business Operations for Monsanto Hawaii.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of GM 234 and GM 235 for the nomination of Mr. William D. Balfour, Jr. for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mr. Balfour's years of experience and knowledge of Hawaii's agriculture and its water resources will serve as an asset to the Water Commission. His wealth of knowledge and hands on experience will provide a true and realistic approach to managing these water resources. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Balfour and found his work to be exemplary. I know his excellent work ethics and integrity will translate to his work on the Commission.

I believe that Mr. Balfour will be an excellent Commissioner who will be fair and balanced in every decision making case. He understands the complexities of managing our water resources and will do his research to ensure a well informed and educated decision is made.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support Mr. Balfour's nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Perlak, Ph.D.  
Monsanto Company

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY**  
**GM234 and GM235**

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation of the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2010 and 6-30-2014 respectively.

I have known Mr. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., for thirteen (13) years seven (7) of which were in the capacity of the Director of Park and Recreation, City and County of Honolulu. Mr. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR, can be best described as fair but steadfast, decisive, consistent, possesses smart business tenacity, simple and a forward thinker. His style of management is far beyond reproach with vast experience both in the public and private sector that spanned over 60 years.

Mr. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., has an innate ability to cultivate existing resources and triple fold its usefulness by getting the most out of existing resources. As a forward thinker, he has proven to harness the most challenging tasks with limited resources and turn them into phenomenal results that have benefited the people of the City and Honolulu. He is a simple person, short on words but powerful with action and this was most prevalent during his testimonies at various City Council Hearings laying out his ideas and visions to make our the City and County of Honolulu Park system one of the best in the nation. This can be attested through the various accolades and articles written by the National Park and Recreation magazine as well as acknowledgement during the annual national meetings recognizing Honolulu's exemplary park system. He is a person that walked his talk!

Mr. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., takes a 'hands on' approach on complex matters. Whether dealing with budget shortfalls, property disputes, capital improvement plans, management challenges and working with the rank and file to get the basic task at hand completed he was involved. With an organization of nearly 2000 employees, they knew 'Bill' and he knew them. People knew where he was coming from and what there were expected to do. I remembered his most simple approach in taking care of the parks in Honolulu when he was appointed as the Director, 'clean the comfort stations, pick up the trash, cut the grass and water the grass' and this was a very pure and simple thought that became the department's mantra and was adopted by all employees that served with him past and present.

There was no task too small or too large for MR. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., to undertake. His application and commitment to each task given to him was made his own. He championed the most unfavorable ones equally with the ones that were met with the least the amount of resistance. A true supporter in what he believed is the absolutely right and honest approach to take during difficult situations. There was no 'fluff' only pure gut wrenching facts!

Unequivocally for these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to support MR. WILLIAM D. BALFOUR JR., nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Gary B. Cabato



February 16, 2010

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

**Re: GM 234 & GM 235 – In Strong Support of Senate’s Confirmation  
of William D. Balfour Jr.**

Dear Senator Hee and Committee members:

I, Denis Isono testify as a private citizen in strong support of William “Bill” Balfour, Jr. to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have the pleasure of socializing with Bill at the Oahu Country Club. We have also shared time as board members at our Club. Seeing Bill as a leader I saw a pragmatic and straight forward approach to challenging problems. Doing what is right prevails in what ever he does. Bill is not just focused on today but always demonstrates a strong concern for the future. His vision and perspective has always been the “big picture” an important view given the challenges with water in our State.

Bill’s long record as a leader in Hawaii’s sugar industry, followed by a second career in City government, makes him an ideal candidate for the position to which he has been appointed.

For all the above reasons, I strongly support Bill Balfour’s nomination to the Water Commission.

Aloha,



Denis K. Isono

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 234 / GM 235**  
**(END)**