

TESTIMONY
GM 309

February 17, 2010

Water, Land, Agricultural and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Chairperson Clayton Hee, Vice Chairperson Jill Tokuda and Members of the Committee
Hawaii State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Re: Nomination to Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council G.M. No 309

Questionnaire Reply from Benjamin Daniel Shafer

Aloha Chairperson Hee, Vice Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Water, Land,
Agricultural and Hawaiian Affairs Committee;

Listed below are my responses to the seven (7) questions asked of me.

1. Why do you wish to be a member of Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

As an active resident of Kahana, I am concerned with what happens in Kahana. My grandfather, Daniel Beirne told me many times if you stay in Kahana, you have a special responsibility (kuleana) to malama the aina, to perpetuate your Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices. He also reminded me often that the people of Hawaii have allowed us to stay in a Kahana and we need to continue to give back by participation and our ohana always has and always will because it is our kuleana.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

My role on the KPC will be to remind our Council members that this is not a new issue, but an issue that has gone unresolved for the pass 30+ years. Kahana has many plans; Mogi, QLCC, DOE, Task Force, Peoples, Development, Advisory Council II and other plans, and now the Kahana Planning Council. This Council needs to take the next step and take the best from the plans already conceived, update it and pass it out to the BLNR for approval and implementation. My push is for a complete Master Plan.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council, 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 Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council.

I learned from my grandfather who was a no-nonsense, common sense, reality based person. I worked on the Kahana Advisory Council I, as a paid secretary, then as a member and later as Co-Chair (1985-1991). The outcome was the Kahana Development Plan. I was active in the Hui O' Malama O' Kahana, a precursor to the Kahana Community Association. I sat as a Board Member and later Co-Chair of the Kahana Advisory Council II (1997-2007).

Outcome: Report of Interpretive Programs, Goals and Directions, Residents' Survey, Goals, Objectives, and Activities of the Kahana Interpretive Programs, Resources of Kahana. I hope to push the meeting in carrying out its agenda to completion within the specified time period. Hopefully what I bring to the table is being fair, equitable, just, and open minded to the needs and responsibilities of the residents and justification and accountability request from the State of Hawaii, our taxpayers.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

My term is for a year. My hope is to have a Draft Master Plan to present to this Committee and the BLNR 20 days prior to the 2011 Legislative Session.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

Fair, equitable and open minded. Finding that middle ground to make things work.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

We all have meetings to attend with a limited amount of time. Some people can and will take up the whole meeting time just to talk and nothing is completed. I like to cut it short and to the point and will point it out if I feel someone not keeping with the specified agenda. I am a sticker for keeping to the agenda using the prescribe time allowed and completing the agenda. I have done it over and over and over again.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

What I have done while serving on the Kahana Advisory Council II is to acknowledge a conflict exist, relieve myself of any discussions relating to my family on the subject of revocable permits or leases.

If there are any other questions that I could be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo nui,

Ben Shafer

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(END)