

TESTIMONY
GM 312

Questions Relating to Dr. Robert Shallenberger's Re-nomination to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

I joined the Commission to contribute my expertise and knowledge in support of land conservation in the State of Hawaii. This has been a very satisfying experience. I am pleased to have been part of a process that has supported 17 excellent projects with Federal, State, County and private funds. In keeping with the enabling legislation, the Commission has selected a wide diversity of projects that conserve watershed, natural, cultural, agricultural, open space, scenic and recreational values.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

I believe that each member of the Commission should be prepared to commit the time necessary to conduct a thorough and objective review of all conservation proposals, both through analysis of submitted materials and through site visits, as appropriate. Members should also contribute their expertise to the development and continuing evaluation of the processes by which conservation proposals are reviewed and ranked for funding support.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, 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 Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

My entire professional career, spanning more than four decades, has been focused on the land and water conservation in Hawaii and throughout the Continental US. I received a Master's and Ph.D. in conservation biology. I have worked for both State and Federal conservation agencies, including seven years as Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. During my tenure with the Service, I supervised land acquisition and management programs at the local, regional and national levels. I currently manage Nature Conservancy preserves on Hawaii Island and am actively involved in a diversity of watershed management partnerships. Perhaps most importantly, I have traveled extensively in the Hawaii and have an practical, working knowledge of the lands that come before the Commission.

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

I hope to build on the accomplishments of the Commission achieved during the first four years in existence. Each year, we have taken steps which have improved the process by which land conservation proposals are evaluated. The content and quality of proposals have also improved as project proponents become more familiar with the manner in which proposals are evaluated and ranked. I look forward to continuing improvements.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

I am passionate about conservation, well versed in the science of land protection and management and both objective and analytical in my approach to decision-making. These are all traits that have served me well on the Commission. For the Commission to be successful in meeting its well-defined objectives, members must be committed to the work, grounded with appropriate expertise and both thoughtful and thorough in their approach to the task. I also believe that they must be ethical beyond reproach, as we are working with public funds, doing the people's work.

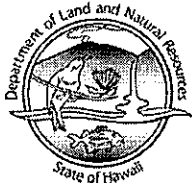
6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

For several years while employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, I supervised the protection and management of all national wildlife refuges in Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. This position required an intimate knowledge of the diverse natural resources in Hawaii and the ability to set priorities, resolve conflicting uses and accomplish important work with insufficient funds. This "reality check" provides me with the practical perspective needed to objectively evaluate protection proposals reviewed by the Commission.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Before joining the Commission I noted that there could be a potential conflict of interest if my employer (The Nature Conservancy) were to bring a land protection proposal before the Commission. To date, this has occurred only once. At that time, I left the room while other Commission members discussed the proposal and I did not participate in any scoring of the proposal. If I am reappointed to the Commission, I will take the same approach if any future proposals are submitted by the Nature Conservancy.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, February 19, 2010
3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 312
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LEGACY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT J.
SHALLENBERGER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 312 to appoint Dr. Robert J. Shallenberger to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for a second term to expire 6-30-2014.

Dr. Shallenberger is currently the Hawai'i Island Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and also acts as the Vice President of Board of Directors for the Hawaii Wildlife Center. He has a Ph.D. in Ornithology and Animal Behavior and has conducted research on Hawaiian forest and seabirds, dolphins, monk seals, reef fish and aquaculture species. Dr. Shallenberger has extensive wildlife management experience with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and has served both locally as Manager for the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, and nationally as Chief of the USFWS' Division of Refuges.

Dr. Shallenberger's knowledge of conservation land acquisition and management, and his expertise in Hawaiian forest and seabirds have been valuable assets to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

The Department supports G.M. 312 on the reappointment of Dr. Robert J. Shallenberger to a second term on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

From: jeff melrose [jeff@isleplan.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:47 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: Robert Shallenberger
Subject: Support for Rob Shallenberger's reappointment to Legacy Land Commission

Aloha Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

It is my pleasure to add a letter support on behalf of Mr. Rob Shallenberger's reappointment to the Legacy Land Conservation Committee.

Rob has been a major contributor to land preservation and resource management in the State of decades. His long experience both with the Nature Conservancy and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife make him an ideal member of this important committee. His understanding of the big picture of resource conservation in Hawaii is an important asset to this committee and its important work over the years.

In this time of diminishing public resources for many important issues in the State, it is more important than ever that this Committee understand how to focus our collective conservation investments in places where it can do the most good. Mr. Shallenberger brings great experience to this discussion and the capacity to discern the best use of limited resources.

Please consider his re-nomination in a positive light. We are lucky to have someone with his experience willing to serve in this capacity.

Best Regards
Jeffrey Melrose

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
(Provided by Mark Fox, Director of External Affairs)
Supporting GM 312 and the Confirmation of Robert J. Shallenberger
to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 19, 2010, 3:15PM, Room 229

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the confirmation of Dr. Robert Shallenberger to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Approved in 2005, the Legacy Land Act has provided a critical source of funding for land acquisitions to protect important natural, cultural, agricultural, and recreational areas. Thanks to this landmark legislation and the work of government and private partners, this program has contributed key funding support to protect undeveloped lands around the state that will be a natural legacy for generations to come.

With their individual and collective expertise in conservation, culture, agriculture, and community service, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission plays the critical role of reviewing and making recommendations on proposals for Legacy Land funding. The Nature Conservancy believes that Rob Shallenberger will continue to be a significant asset to the work of the Commission. A conservation biologist for more than 30 years, Rob received his Ph.D. from UCLA in Ornithology and Animal Behavior with a focus on Hawaiian seabirds. For more than two decades, he managed national wildlife refuges, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and Midway Atoll, and spent seven years as Chief of Refuges for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. Rob has travelled and worked across the Hawaiian island chain, and in more than 25 countries, in large part as a professional naturalist and nature tour guide in Pacific islands, South America, Galapagos, Australia and Mexico. In his present role as The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i Island Conservation Director, Rob oversees the Conservancy's care of nearly 12,000 acres of koa and 'ōhi'a forest preserves, our participation in partnerships that manage more than 1 million acres of the Big Island's important forest and watershed areas, and our support to coastal communities engaged in managing their coral reef and near shore marine resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Rob's confirmation to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. We hope you will give his appointment your most enthusiastic recommendation for approval by the full Senate.

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From: davidtarnas@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 2:25 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of GM 312, Rob Shallenberger

February 18, 2010

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Member
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Member
Senator Russell Kokubun, Member
Senator Dwight Takamine, Member
Senator Fred Hemmings, Member
Senate Committee of Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

FR: David Tarnas

RE: Testimony in support of GM 312: Appointing Rob Shallenberger for Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee,

I strongly support the reappointment of Rob Shallenberger to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Rob has served on this Commission for many years and has proven to be a thoughtful and collaborative member of the Commission. This has helped the Commission to be a success in its efforts to issue \$13.6 million in awards and attracting \$28.3 million in matching funds for 17 different projects on 6,630 acres of land throughout the state.

Rob has an extensive professional experience in land conservation and management that is very helpful for the Commission. I am familiar with his work as the Hawaii Island Conservation Director for the Nature Conservancy and as a member of three different watershed partnerships: The Three Mountain Alliance, Kohala Watershed Partnership and the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance. His continued participation will help the Commission continue to be a success. I ask for your support in confirming his appointment to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Best regards,
David

David Tarnas
P.O. Box 6882
Kamuela, HI 96743

TESTIMONY
GM 312
(END)