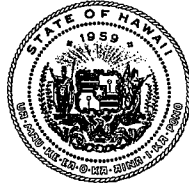


GM 394



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

GM394, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, PETER H. COOPER, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Testimony of Katherine Puana Kealoha
Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

April 12, 2010

1 **Department's Position:** The Office of Environmental Quality Control strongly supports the
2 Gubernatorial Nomination of Peter Cooper (GM-394) to the Environmental Council.

3 **Justification:** Mr. Cooper was appointed by the Governor to the Environmental Council in 2008, to fill
4 a vacancy created when one of the council members resigned. He currently serves on the Environmental
5 Council in good standing and is a member of the Environmental Council's Sustainability Committee.

6 Mr. Cooper has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Hawai'i where he
7 studied real estate and finance. His business endeavors and professional activities has given him
8 valuable experience in construction development, project management, subdivisions and condominiums
9 design, and the installation and financing of photovoltaic systems for the purpose of reducing
10 dependency on fossil fuels.

11 Mr. Cooper currently serves as a chief executive officer of Sun Power LLC and Cooper and
12 Cooper LLC. He is also a past president and current board member of the Hawai'i Developers' Council,
13 a private organization established to educate developers and the public regarding land, construction and
14 development issues through public forums, seminars and publications.

1 In addition, Mr. Cooper does volunteer work at the Joan Kroc Salvation Army where he is a
2 member of the development board. He is also a member of the Honolulu Bulls Soccer Club and a past
3 president of to club's board of directors.

4 Mr. Cooper's education, experience, and commitment to community advancement will serve the
5 Environmental Council well. In this light, the Office of Environmental Quality Control hopes your
6 committee will approve the nomination of Peter Cooper to the Environmental Council.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

April 11, 2010

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
415 South Beretania Street, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Nomination to the Environmental Council

Aloha Senator Gabbard,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be considered as a member of the Environmental Council for another full term. Like many people in our community – I am very busy making ends meet and trying to make a living in these tough economic times. So being a volunteer on this Council is something I have had to really consider – especially in light of the fact that there is quite a bit of confusion as to the Council's role and in light of members recently quitting due to feeling unsupported at different levels.

I myself have recently cut back on my duties on two other groups I was involved with but feel strongly compelled to stay active on the Environmental Council (if confirmed) as well as the Joan Kroc / Salvation Army Community Center. The reason I have decided to stay active in these groups is because I truly believe I bring something unique to bear that can make a positive difference going forward, and these two groups will have multi-generational impacts on the people of Hawaii. As a person raised in Hawaii and who has raised his children here, and hopefully my grandchildren, I feel especially connected to the Aina and want to help steward this unique gift we all have.

I see my role on the Environmental Council as a bridge builder. I am a strong environmentalist as well as an avid capitalist – which makes me a member of, what I believe to be, a relatively small group. I have experience designing selling and installing photovoltaic systems, developing and selling real estate, and I currently raise my own fish and vegetables for food in my backyard aquaponics garden. When I was younger I fed my family from the ocean out of necessity and instilled the value of only taking what you need and respecting the needs of the people that come behind us. When I graduated from high school (St. Louis on Waialae Ave) the first thing I did was take a month to go back packing on the Big Island.

I think every member of the Environmental Council needs to understand the great gift we have living here in the islands that can never be duplicated, but could be lost without good stewarding. We also need to hold to logical standards for making decisions going forward.

I graduated from UH Business Schools with degrees in Finance and Real Estate. These degrees have given me, I believe, the necessary mindset for analyzing problems and coming up with solutions that serve more than just the bottom line. One of the things I have learned that you can't learn in school is that all of us here in the islands have rights (and responsibilities) as they relate to the unique paradise we live in. When a piece of land or beachfront is developed - it is never the same again. When a family can't build an Ohana unit for their children on their property because they can't afford the EA associated with connecting to a waterline, something needs to be addressed.

During my last term I diligently went and actively participated in every Council meeting held. I think I was asked to represent the "Business Community" but I think I really represented the average local person who struggles with the questions of how to keep Hawaii's environment protected as well as secure options for our keiki to afford to live in Hawaii.

I am hopeful that the problems that have hampered the Council's effectiveness can be addressed quickly to allow us to meet again and I thank you for so being proactive in this area. I also hope that the Council's role is more clearly defined so that we can be the conduit between the public and the government that we were intended to be.

My strengths are that I speak my mind, I listen to others that may have a different perspective with wiliness to let their perspective influence me, and I am passionate about being a good steward of the Aina.

I really look forward to seeing you at my nomination hearing.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Cooper". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Pete Cooper".