

TESTIMONY
GM 446



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
The Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 5, 2010

Dear Senator Hee:

Thank you for your letter of April 1, 2010, informing me of my nomination to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (G.M. No. 446). Please find below the responses to the questions you requested. I look forward to meeting you and the rest of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs at my Senate confirmation hearing on April 7, 2010.

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission?

I have been a strong supporter of the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) since first arriving in Hawaii in 1982. The NARS represent some of Hawaii's most unique natural resources and I would be honored to sit on a Commission that will help guide the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) in the management of those areas for the benefit of the natural resources as well as accommodate other appropriate uses. I believe that my academic and work history uniquely suit me for the NARS Commission, as I have extensive experience in the protection and management of Hawaii's unique rare plants, many of which occur in NARS.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission?

I see the NARS Commission as a body to guide the State's management of the NARS, as well as help evaluate additional areas to include in the NARS. Guidance on the management of the NARS should include natural resource management actions, protection, and an assessment permitted uses of NARS. I hope that the NARS Commission also advises the State on other matters relating to the management of Hawaii's unique natural resources, as they relate to the NARS and the management of surrounding areas and other preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges within the State which harbor important natural resources.

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3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserve 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 Natural Area Reserve Commission.

I believe that my academic and work history suit participation in the NARS Commission very well. I have worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1993, initially as a staff level biologist, and since 2000 as the Plant Recovery Coordinator. As such, I participate in all aspects of the Service's activities, focusing largely on plant biology and ecosystem conservation planning and implementation, as well as regulatory aspects. I participate in and chair several strategic conservation planning efforts, including the Hawaii and Pacific Rare Plant Recovery Coordinating Committee (as chairperson), which is developing a Hawaiian rare plant conservation strategy; co-chair of the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group, which has developed monitoring, collecting, and reintroduction protocols for rare Hawaiian plants; and the implementation team for a major section 7 consultation with the U.S. Army for 30 endangered plant species, which included a NAR. Specific recovery activities I conduct include candidate conservation for seven plant species in Kauai montane bogs within the Alakai Wilderness Area, participating in reintroduction efforts for two species of silverswords on the island of Hawaii, and participating in a partnership for dry forest restoration. I am also a member of the Center for Plant Conservation's Science Advisory Council and the Science Advisory Group of the Hawaiian Silversword Foundation.

Prior to my work with the Service, I was the Conservation Projects Coordinator at the Center for Plant Conservation from 1991 to 1993. Here I assisted in coordinating integrated conservation activities that involved cooperators throughout the U.S. working in rare plant conservation. My work included annual task force meetings which brought together experts in endangered plant biology in the priority rare plant areas of the country (including Hawaii), cooperatively developing a proposal for conserving the endangered plants of Hawaii, and conducted audits of cooperating botanical gardens in the priority areas to ensure that ex situ conservation work on endangered plants was being conducted following the best conservation practices and was completed in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

At The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, from 1986 to 1991, I was the staff botanist responsible for the botanical aspects of the Hawaii Heritage Program, including development of the botanical portions of the Hawaiian rare species and ecosystem database and the completion of botanical portions of contracts to assess biological value of surveyed land parcels. Evaluating available data and recommendations, I maintained a status database of over 500 rare and endangered Hawaiian plants. My responsibilities included overseeing literature searches, contacting experts on specific species, and reviews of available data to map all known populations and to compile and enter data on location, habitat, threats, and population status into the database for rare and endangered Hawaiian plants, following the standard methodology devised by the national office of The Nature Conservancy. I also conducted the botanical portions of surveys to locate rare plants and animals and to map native vegetation and scheduled botanical portions of 26

contracts, oversaw production of database reports, and wrote botanical portions of contract reports. During that time, I participated in surveys and management plan development for several NARS.

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

I perceive my unique set of skills helping to increase the emphasis and partnership work on NARS and with other organizations and agencies for conducting rare plant restoration within the NARS and other State lands of unique plant conservation value.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Natural Area Reserve System Commission?

I am dependable, and will commit to attending the NARS Commission meetings and carrying through on any task I agree to do as part of the Commission. I treat situations consistently, while being flexible enough to adapt to new conditions. For the Commission, I can treat different application for actions within the NARS fairly while assessing the costs and benefits of any unique impacts. My botanical knowledge and experience in Hawaii, including on-the-ground rare plant management and regulatory work, give me a unique perspective on the NARS that I believe does not currently exist on the NARS Commission.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Natural Area Reserve System Commission?

While working at The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, I participated in surveys and/or management plan development for all of the existing NARS in the late 1980s. I believe this makes me uniquely qualified for the NARS Commission, as one of the few or only member to be intimately familiar with the majority of the NARS.

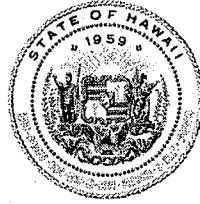
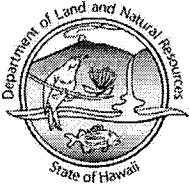
7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

The Fish and Wildlife Service may grant funds to the NARS directly, and if any requests come from the NARS Commission, this could be seen as a conflict of interest. There are numerous Federal checks and balances to make sure I would not be involved with these funding decisions, and I would abstain from voting on such issues within the NARS Commission. I do not foresee any other conflicts.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Bruegmann

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, April 7, 2010
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 446 –
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MARIE M. BRUEGMANN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) 446 to appoint Ms. Marie M. Bruegmann to the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Under the requirements of §195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Ms. Bruegmann will serve as one of the six members possessing scientific qualifications as evidenced by an academic degree. Ms. Bruegmann has received two degrees, a B.Sc. in Botany from Michigan State University and a M.S. in Botany from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa.

Ms. Bruegmann, a resident of O'ahu, currently serves as the Plant Recovery Coordinator for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Hawaii and the Pacific, a position she has held since 2000. Over the years Ms. Bruegmann has held several positions in conservation in Hawaii including: Botanist with the USFWS (1993-2000), Conservation Project Coordinator for the Center for Plant Conservation (1991-1993), and Botanist for the Hawaii Heritage Program (1987-1991). During her years with Heritage, Ms. Bruegmann participated in NARS surveys statewide and the writing of several NARS management plans. Ms. Bruegmann presently serves, among other things, as chairperson of the Hawaii and Pacific Rare Plant Recovery Coordinating Committee and co-chairperson of the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group. She has authored or co-authored over 85 published papers and reports.

The Department strongly supports GM 446 on the appointment of Ms. Marie M. Bruegmann to the NARS Commission as she will provide scientific expertise in Hawaiian botany and plant conservation for the Commission. The Department looks forward to working with her in the future.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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