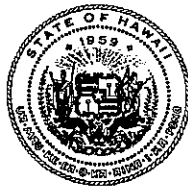


GM 526



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**GM 524 & GM526, Nomination of Gubernatorial Nominee, Gary Hooser, for
Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, for a term to expire 6-30-
2011 and for a term to expire 6-30-2015**

**Testimony of Gary L Gill
Deputy Director of Environmental Health**

March 3, 2011

1 **Department's Position:**

2 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the gubernatorial
3 nomination of Gary Hooser, as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

4 As you may recall, I served as the director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control for 4
5 years during the Cayetano administration. From this perspective of experience, I feel strongly that Gary
6 Hooser has the knowledge, commitment, and skill to be an excellent OEQC director.

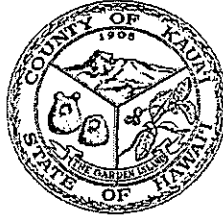
7 Gary Hooser is a dedicated public servant. His leadership has moved the state forward in such
8 areas as education, energy policy, civil rights and sustainability. His personal strength, his experience
9 and involvement in environmental issues, and his professional insight assure me that Gary Hooser will
10 be a great asset to the State Department of Health, Office of Environmental Quality Control, and the
11 people of Hawaii.

12 Please join me in welcoming Gary Hooser to this vital and challenging position.

13

14

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4900 FAX (808) 241-6877

TESTIMONY FROM KAUA'I MAYOR BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m.

**GM 524 & GM 526, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE GARY HOOSER
AS DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL**

TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, submitting testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control for the term ending June 30, 2015.

Mr. Hooser, a former state and county legislator and small businessman, has also served as a board member for various non-profit organizations such as the Rotary Club and a private educational institution, to mention a few.

With his background, experience and commitment to the community, Gary has the qualities to serve as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). He is a leader and has the ability to help stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to maintain the optimum quality of the State's environment.

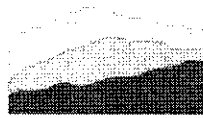
He will be an asset to the State, given his strengths and passion for making Hawai'i a better place to live.

Mahal, for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony.

ca

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THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



HAWAII

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF GM 524 & GM 526 (GARY HOOSER CONFIRMATION)
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Thursday, March 3, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Room 225**

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL's) Hawaiian Islands Program strongly supports the confirmation of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). TPL worked with Mr. Hooser on the passage of the Legacy Lands Act in 2005, which established the Legacy Land Conservation Fund or Land Conservation Fund (LCF), and has had many interactions with Mr. Hooser since. In all instances, Mr. Hooser has been thoughtful, helpful, and has always sought a balanced solution in the best interests of Hawai'i's people.

Mr. Hooser is well versed in environmental laws and regulations. He is extremely well suited to lead OEQC. TPL strongly urges this Committee to support Mr. Hooser's confirmation.

I apologize that I will not be able to attend this hearing due to other commitments, but wish Mr. Hooser the best in his endeavors at OEQC, where I know he will work hard for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Friday, February 25, 2011

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organization's strong support of GM 524 & GM 526 and the confirmation of Mr. Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

It is out of deep respect for Mr. Hooser - a man that has proven himself to be an honest, hardworking and courageous leader and public interest advocate - that I come before you to offer our organization's full support of his nomination.

There are few people in government today that bring as much integrity and passion for public service as does Mr. Hooser. As a proven and dedicated community leader, our organization has worked closely and has come to know Mr. Hooser in the last 10 years and it that time, we have observed first-hand his steadfast commitment towards defending the public's interest.

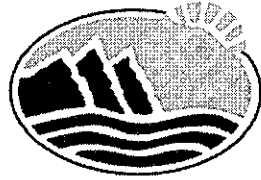
As a small business owner, County Councilor, State Legislator and candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Hooser has always maintained a strong record on environmental issues. As a State Senator, Mr. Hooser's insight and courageous leadership led him to be among the first to embrace the validity of concerns raised by the community, workers and Local 5 - later confirmed by the Hawaii State Supreme Court - on the legitimacy of Kuilima's outdated environmental impact statement at Turtle Bay.

We all know Mr. Hooser to be an outstanding member of our community with a distinguished record of community service. He has dedicated countless hours advocating for fairness and equality in our community, and has been an unwavering ally of working people throughout our State. We are confident that Mr. Hooser will continue to serve in our community's best interest.

We stand in strong support of GM 524 & GM 526 and humbly ask for your Committee's support of Mr. Hooser's nomination.

Sincerely,

Cade Watanabe
Community/Political Organizer



HINAMAUKA

Subject: *GM526 Relating to the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control*

To: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT; Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

When: Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 at 2:45 pm in Room 225

Good morning Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Distinguished Committee members: My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit treatment and prevention agency serving Hawaii residents statewide.

Alan Johnson: Support the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

I believe that Gary Hooser has demonstrated excellence in both character and competence. In addition, Gary has proven his commitment to excellent public service.

With substantial experience both at the County Council level and at the State legislature as well as years of background in small business, Mr. Hooser has demonstrated his superb ability to provide exceptional leadership. Further, Mr. Hooser's extensive experience with and strong record on environmental issues validates his qualification to be an environmental director who could stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to meet the optimum quality for the State's environment.

I believe that Gary Hooser has the 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible for the State of Hawaii.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and am available for questions, if needed.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0003
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0055
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 3, 2011

G.M. 524 and G.M. 526 – Submitting for Consideration
and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of
Environmental Quality Control, Gary Hooser

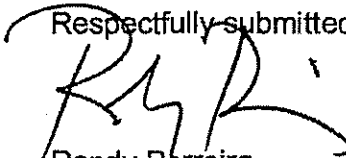
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

As a Kaua'i County Councilmember and State Senator, Mr. Hooser has been an accessible, diligent and collaborative legislator, who has demonstrated leadership and a genuine willingness to address complex issues. He is actively involved and well-versed in a variety of renewable energy, environmental protection, shoreline access, and agriculture issues and is personally vested in ensuring Hawaii's environmental quality. Mr. Hooser is active in his community and respected among business and community leaders.

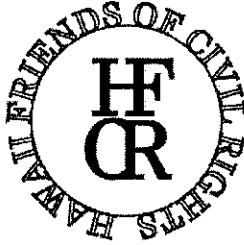
The Office of Environmental Quality Control helps to stimulate and coordinate efforts to maintain the optimum quality of Hawaii's environment, and ensures implementation of Environmental Impact Statements. We are confident that Mr. Hooser's personal interest in environmental protection and quality, combined with his legislative background and community involvement, will not only enhance awareness of the scope of the office, but will be instrumental to both the public he serves and to the employees who work with him.

It is our pleasure to offer our strong support for the confirmation of Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Perreira
Executive Director



HAWAII FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

March 2, 2011

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair

RE: GM -524 - Testimony in Support of Gary Hooser

I am representing the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights in support of Gary Hooser for Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. HFQR supports policies, programs and individuals who are committed to equal access and social justice. Gary Hooser has a long track record of service to our state at the County and State levels. He understands and appreciates the multiple issues facing our island state and the need to provide equal access to government services and implement policies in a fair manner. The OEQC is a very important agency that needs a leader like Gary Hooser. I respectfully urge you to support his nomination.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Hearing: Thursday, March 3, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 225

Support for GM 524 and GM 526

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawaii supports GM 524 and GEM 526 – the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to environmental protection and the public to be an effective director of this important office.

I have known Senator Hooser for around 10 years. He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working. His record on environmental protection is clear, strong, and consistent.

Senator Hooser served in the State Legislature for 8 years representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. He served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment the entire time, and as Majority Leader for 4 of those 8 years. He introduced, analyzed, and supported legislation affecting the environment on full-time basis. He worked on Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343 – the state law governing environmental assessments and impact statements, and he is more than familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council. His experience in the Legislature will serve him well at OEQC. Senator Hooser also passed legislation to establish impressive renewable energy portfolio standards, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, protect critically endangered species such as the Hawaiian monk seal, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines among countless other environmental protection initiatives. Prior to serving in the State Legislature, Senator Hooser served on the Kaua'i County Council for 4 years and as a member of the Council's committees on energy and environment the entire time. He was also in business for 20 years, and he possesses the skills, knowledge, and perspective that come from that experience as well.

Senator Hooser is accessible, and he is a good listener. His is an open-door policy. He is able to bring people with diverse interests together around common purposes, and he gets things done. The OEQC needs a leader, such as Senator Hooser. I am confident he will approach the responsibility of being Director of the OEQC with 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible. I look forward to working with him and the OEQC.

Please support GM 524 and GM 526 and Senator Hooser. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawaii's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Maura O'Connor • Vice-President: Hannah Springer • Treasurer: Kim Ramos • Secretary: Rick Barboza

Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau • Maka'ala Ka'aumoana • Julie Leialoha

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

Testimony
In SUPPORT
Of Mr. Gary Hooser
For
Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control
GM 524 and GM 526

By Al Lardizabal, Director of Government Relations
Hawaii Laborers' Union

To the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
March 3, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the several thousand Hawaii members of the Laborers'
International Union of North America Local 368, we strongly endorse Mr.
Gary Hooser for Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control,
State of Hawaii.

Mr. Gary Hooser is a former State Senator, a former Kauai Councilman and
a businessman with an excellent legislative, business and community record.
He is competent in sustainability, alternative energy, and environmental
issues and has many years of significant legislative experience that will
serve well, the interests of the people of our state. He has been a consistent
advocate for the land and has championed environmental causes.

Mr. Hooser has the integrity and forthright character to do the right thing for
Hawaii and its people. He understands and appreciates deeply the core
mission of the OEQC and is highly motivated to achieve it. We have the
utmost faith in Mr. Hooser to conduct the affairs of the OEQC in accordance
with the spirit and mission of the OEQC.

We humbly ask for a favorable recommendation by the Committee for the
confirmation of Mr. Gary Hooser as Director of the OEQC, State of Hawaii.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m.

GM 524, GM 526, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER, for a term to expire 6-30-2011.

Dear Chairperson Gabbard and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), our union supports the appointment of former Senator Gary Hooser to the Director's position. He has the necessary knowledge and administrative skills to effectively oversee an agency dealing with complex and often contentious environmental impact statements and regulatory interpretation. As a legislative leader, he demonstrated a commitment to making energy sustainability a reality recognizing the links between the environment and economy in creating sound public policy. This understanding is critical in assessing the overall consequences of various ventures under consideration by the office of Environmental Quality Control.

The Director's position requires an individual who is adept at managing various interests and points of view within state agencies and elected leaders. Such an ability has been demonstrated by Mr. Hooser, as Senate Majority leader working with a variety of personalities and interests to obtain viable solutions to legislative challenges.

Gary Hooser deserves your support and confirmation as Director of Environmental Quality Control.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Associate Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>



The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Committee on Energy and Environment
March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m., Room 225

Statement of the Hawaii Carpenters Union on the Confirmation of
Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

The Hawaii Carpenters Union Supports the confirmation by the Senate of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Our experience with his work has been in his service in the Senate and the Kauai County Council, but Mr. Hooser also brings a private business background to the position.

Gary Hooser has always shown a deep caring for the islands that are home to our members, their families and future generations. While holding this perspective, he demonstrates even-handed consideration of all factors before passing judgment.

Mr. Hooser was always accessible to our organization, and to others, as a legislator. Beyond listening, he was well informed and shared information relevant to questions or concerns raised. Or, he directed staff to check facts and come back with their findings.

We believe that Gary Hooser will provide direction for all agencies with regard to protecting the environment, will capably administer the OEQC, and thoroughly meet the legislated purposes of Environmental Impact Statements.

We are confident in our support for an honest and sincere individual, and thank you for considering our testimony.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



Testimony of John White
Executive Director
The Pacific Resource Partnership

State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

GM 524/GM 526 Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of
Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER
Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee:

My name is John White, Executive Director for the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP supports the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

As stated in the OEQC website, "The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) was established in 1970 to help stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to maintain the optimum quality of the State's environment. OEQC implements Ch. 343, HRS Environmental Impact Statements. Office planners review and comment on hundreds of environmental disclosure documents each year. At the request of the Governor, the Director of OEQC is empowered to coordinate and direct State agencies in matters concerning environmental quality."

PRP believes Mr. Hooser's experience at both the County Council level and at the State legislature, combined with his background in small business and his strong record on environmental issues makes him particularly qualified for this position.

During his political career, Mr. Hooser has been actively engaged in many community oriented issues including renewable energy, social justice, environmental protection, shoreline access, affordable housing, and agriculture. One of his most significant accomplishments to date was introducing and passing into law the nation's first solar hot water heating system requirement for new homes. Known for his open door and collaborative style, he is respected among his colleagues and community leaders around the state.

PRP would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) and we kindly ask for your favorable consideration.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting G.M. 524 and 526 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director
of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Hooser
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday, March 3, 2011, 2:45PM, Room 225

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 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.

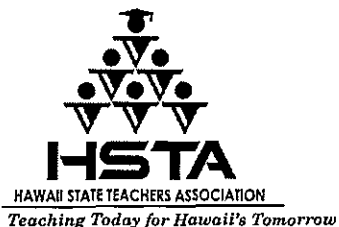
The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

We have enjoyed and appreciated working with Mr. Hooser over the last several years in his capacity as a State legislator, including his longstanding membership on the Senate Energy and Environment Committee and as Senate Majority Leader. We have found him easy to approach and open to diverse points of view. Most importantly for this job, we believe that Mr. Hooser is committed to the care and perpetuation of Hawaii's globally unique environment, and that he understands the balance needed to meet both the responsibilities of environmental protection and the needs of people in relation to the environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Mr. Hooser's confirmation to lead the OEQC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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Joan Kamila Lewis
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Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

**RE: GM 524 and GM 526: GARY HOOSER, Director for the Office of
Environmental Quality Control**

March 3, 2011

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the confirmation of Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Mr. Hooser's background of public service at the county council level and in the state legislature, as well as his experience in the business arena, more than qualify him to tackle the responsibilities of this position. He also has a strong record on environmental issues and he understands what needs to be done and the significance of ensuring optimum quality of Hawaii's environment.

Mr. Hooser's integrity and dedication are beyond reproach, and he is willing to listen to all sides of an issue before making a decision. He sees both the big picture and the details and is able to make the tough decisions.

We strongly support Mr. Gary Hooser's confirmation as the Director of OEQC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

RL: 2272

GM 524 and GM 526
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control,
Governatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER,
for terms to expire 6-30-2011 and 6-30-2015

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Public Hearing – Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By
Chittaranjan Ray, Interim Director
Water Resources Research Center and Environmental Center

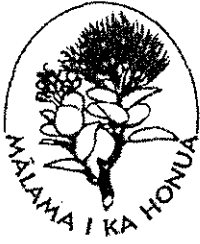
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and committee members:

The University of Hawaii Environmental Center, a unit of the Water Resources Research Center, supports the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). We believe that this nominee's experience in political leadership, environmental governance, and local business provides a solid foundation for achieving OEQC's mission to "serve the governor in an advisory capacity on all matters pertaining to environmental quality control," and for "coordinat[ing] and . . . direct[ing] . . . all state governmental agencies in matters concerning environmental quality." Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §§341-3(a), 4(a).

The Legislature created the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the Environmental Center, and the Environmental Council in 1970 through a single piece of legislation, Act 132, intended to "stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to determine and maintain the optimum quality of the environment of the State." HRS §341-1. We look forward to working with Gary Hooser and the OEQC staff to revitalize our joint efforts to implement this legislative purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this confirmation. Please note that our testimony should not be construed to represent an official institutional position of the University of Hawaii.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

March 3, 2011, 2:45 P.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 524

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club, with 8,000 dues-paying members and supporters, is proud to ***strongly support*** the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

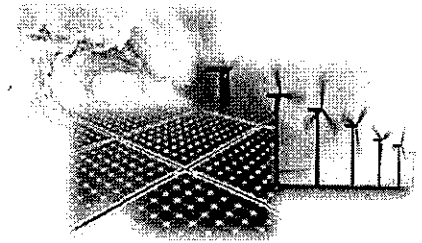
The Sierra Club is particularly pleased to stand by Mr. Hooser through his confirmation as he has consistently stood by the environment throughout his career.

Mr. Hooser's leadership in energy, development, and coastal access issues form the foundation of our support. During his eight years as a Hawai'i State Senator, Mr. Hooser led the fight for clean energy by introducing and advocating for the mandatory solar roofs law, successfully pushing to fix Hawaii's renewable portfolio standards, and advocating for a halt on the construction of new fossil fuel plants. Among other environmental accomplishments, Mr. Hooser consistently pushed for laws protecting coastal access to ensure the public had the ability to enjoy Hawai'i's beaches and recreational areas.

Although Mr. Hooser has shown the ability to take principled stands in favor of the public interest, Mr. Hooser also has extensive experience in the business community. He understands and appreciates the need for sustainable growth for all sectors. He can be trusted to find common ground and find solutions to complex issues.

OEQC is currently facing many challenges. It needs strong leadership to fulfill its mission of ensuring informed decision-making. Mr. Hooser can provide that leadership. He is intelligent, easy to work with, and committed to Hawaii's long-term sustainability. He deserves this opportunity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

March 3, 2011, 2:45 P.M.

Room 225

(Testimony is 1 page long)

**TESTIMONY OF IN SUPPORT OF GM 524 & GM 526, GARY HOOSER AS
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL**

Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports the nomination of Gary Hooser to Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, for terms through June 30, 2015.

Gary Hooser has the right temperament, vision, motivation, and skill set for the job. Gary was a strong advocate for clean energy while Majority Leader in the State Senate, helping to shepherd through measures to place a cap on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions and to require that most new homes in Hawai'i be built with solar water heaters. He was able to work successfully with different parties, groups, and individuals to build support for policies and see them through enactment. Gary's interest in and passion for sustainability will serve Hawai'i well as he oversees and manages the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

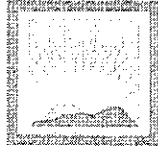
The eloquent mandate of Hawaii's environmental review law (HRS 343) is to require project developers to disclose the facts of a project so decision makers can make informed decisions. In theory, the process isn't dissimilar to the academic peer review process, where claims are made and then a draft is vetted by the community and then changes are made until the issue is adequately examined. The OEQC's role is often misunderstood—the disclosure process is not about permitting, rather it is about presenting facts and alternatives in service of making smart choices for Hawaii's future. Gary's role will largely be ensuring compliance with this disclosure law and working with the state Environmental Council.

Gary has proven himself to be smart, effective, accessible, and a creative problem solver. Blue Planet supports his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeff Mikulina, executive director • jeff@blueplanetfoundation.org

55 Merchant Street 17th Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808-954-6142 • blueplanetfoundation.org



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

March 2, 2011
2:45PM

SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
GM 526

Mark Duda

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association strongly supports the appointment of Gary Hooser to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

Throughout his tenure as a State legislator, Senator Hooser served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection – introducing, analyzing, and supporting legislation affecting the environment on a full time basis. He helped pass legislation to establish the State’s RPS, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines, among countless other environmental protection initiatives. Senator Hooser also worked on Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343 – the state law governing environmental assessments and impact statements – and as such, is more than familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council.

Prior to serving in the State legislature, Senator Hooser served on the Kaua’i County Council for 4 years, and was a member of the Council’s committees on energy and environment. He also worked in the private business sector for 20 years before starting his political career.

Senator Hooser’s experience, at both the County Council level and at the State legislature, combined with his background in small business and commitment towards environmental protection make him particularly qualified for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mark Duda
President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

About Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financiers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.

Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 PM, Conference Room 225
State Capitol
ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

**In support of GM 524 and GM 526, Confirmation of Director for the Office
of Environmental Quality Control**

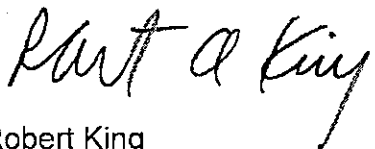
Testimony of Robert A. King

I would like to testify in strong support of the appointment of Gary Hooser for the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control for the remainder of the present term expiring June 30, 2011 and the following term expiring June 30, 2015. As a resident, business owner and involved community member, I have found this office to be of utmost importance in monitoring environmental concerns and believe that Mr. Hooser is an excellent candidate. The OEQC has an important responsibility in our state and I know that Gary Hooser, especially because of his environmental focus while a member of the Hawai'i State Legislature, understands the office well and has the experience, intelligence and thoughtfulness, as well as the communication skills, to fulfill the duty of Director.

I would also like to mention that, as a former Chair of the Environmental Council, I am intimately familiar with the duties of the Director of OEQC and how it relates to the Council. Lacking support in the recent past, the office of OEQC has been severely challenged and needs a strong leader like Gary Hooser to bring it back into full service and effectiveness. I am confident that Mr. Hooser's appointment will also result in a strong and effective Environmental Council for the State of Hawai'i.

I urge the confirmation of Gary Hooser which will benefit the State of Hawai'i's environmental and sustainability efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,



Robert King
President, Pacific Biodiesel, Inc.
Former Chair, Hawai'i State Environmental Council

I have known Gary Hooser for about seven years. He came to Loomis-ISC, a thirty year old integrated marketing communications and issue advocacy firm for communications support in his bid for Congress and more recently when he ran for Lieutenant Governor. I was CEO of the firm and continue to serve on its Board and have been privileged to get to know Gary Hooser and what he stands for.

We learned through both campaigns how highly regarded Gary Hooser is by environmental advocates. Those who wish to see business in this state conducted in a way that is mindful of the need to protect and preserve our environmental assets see a champion in Gary Hooser, someone who will balance pragmatism, the economic interests of the state and the need to do what is right to protect the state's priceless natural assets.

Gary Hooser is willing to take positions that are personally and politically risky to be a powerful and principled voice for the environment. He is sometimes wrongly accused of being anti-business because he is unabashedly pro-environment. The truth is Gary Hooser simply wants businesses to do the right thing, obey the law and be held to the standards that have been set for good environmental stewardship. He lives by the belief that when business acts in the interest of the community, both business and the community benefit, not just in the short run but in terms of the future. That was the position he took relative to the Super Ferry, a position that has often been mis-characterized as "anti-business." Someone who aspires to the office of Lieutenant Governor, as Hooser did, in these tough economic times is someone who wants to help grow the economy and foster good business practices for the well-being of all. The Solar Mandate bill he helped pass is a good example of how he has responded to the needs of the marketplace while promoting green practices.

Gary Hooser combines a strong understanding of Neighbor Island sensibilities and local government with an intimate understanding of how the wheels of bureaucracy turn in the State capital from his time as Majority Leader of the Senate. I am confident he will bring both to bear effectively in discharging his responsibilities as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. I support his appointment with enthusiasm and without reservation.

We at Loomis-ISC have been honored to be associated with Gary Hooser in various capacities and to have learned from his commitment to being a friend of the environment while promoting economic growth. We respectfully ask this Committee to support his appointment.

Thank you.

Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D
Director
Loomis-ISC



NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 524 AND GM 526

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2011
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

Aloha mai e Senator Gabbard and Senator English,

Although I am out-of-state for meetings in Texas I am writing in strong support of Gary Hooser who has been nominated to become the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control. I have known Gary since he entered politics on Kaua'i more than a decade ago when he served on the County Council and was a strong supporter of environmental issues.

Gary is no stranger to you having served very effectively as Kaua'i's State Senator for eight years. During this time in office Gary was consistent in his support for the environment and served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment the entire time. He also worked the Chapter 343 HRS and is thus very familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council.

Most importantly, Gary is a man who is dedicated, hard working, and who has proven himself a champion of the environment and our host culture. Gary has over 20 years of business experience which combined with his extensive political experience shows that he has the ability and skills needed to get this important job done.

On a personal note, in my work at the National Tropical Botanical Garden over the past 35 years I have worked extensively with many of our state agencies including the OEQC. I know personally how important this office is when it comes to safeguarding our precious environment and ensuring that all actions that trigger an environmental or cultural assessment are properly reviewed and, if necessary, properly mitigated or denied. I have complete confidence that as the Director of OEQC Gary can, and will, provide the leadership needed to protect our natural and cultural resources.

I strongly urge you to vote yes and give Gary Hooser the opportunity to lead this important State office.

Me ke ha'aha'a,

Chipper Wichman, Director and CEO



March 2, 2011

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environment

Via email to ENETestimony @Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 524 & 526
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee GARY HOOSER, for a term to expire 6-30-2015 (GM 526)

Hearing: March 3, 2011 at 2:45pm

Dear Senator Gabbard,

My name is Sheldon Char and I am an Executive with Keahole Solar Power, LLC (KSP). KSP is a Hawaii based, clean energy company that focuses on project development, power generation, and technology innovation. We are best known for building and operating the Holaniku MicroCSP project at the Natural Energy Laboratories of Hawaii. Our company goal is to help Hawaii achieve its Clean Energy Initiative by developing solar power farms which reduce the use of fossil fuels and improve Hawaii's energy security.

We are writing today to support the confirmation of Gary Hooser to the Office of Environmental Quality Control. We believe the experience and background of Gary Hooser makes him highly qualified for the position of Director with the Office of Environmental Quality Control. We strongly support the confirmation of Gary Hooser to this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Char
Executive



NKN PROJECT PLANNING

March 1, 2011

Senator Mike Gabbard
Committee on Energy and Environment
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: GM524
Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.

Dear Committee Members:

I'm pleased to submit this testimony in support of Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Gary is a former small business owner, Kaua'i County Council Member, and State Senator.

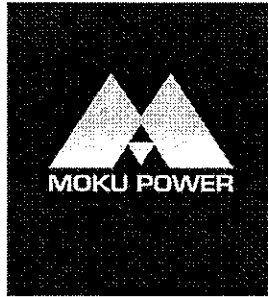
As a practicing urban and regional planner and current Kaua'i County Council Member, I believe that Gary will bring strong leadership to a state agency that is in serious need of leadership. This past year, I received diametrically opposing advice from two OEQC staff members. I made numerous phone calls to the past Director to resolve this issue and never received a response. I'm appalled by the lack of professionalism from past leadership and believe that Mr. Hooser will help to change the culture and direction of this organization.

I believe that Mr. Hooser will enforce HRS, Chapter 343, upheld laws designed to protect our environment, and collaboratively work to improve and streamline regulations. I strongly support his nomination.

Sincerely,



Nadine K. Nakamura
Principal



Senate ENE
Thursday, March 3rd, 2011
2:45 pm, # 225
GM 524 & 526

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Moku Power, LLC **supports** GM 524 and GM 526 confirming Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Our team really looks forward to the opportunity of working with Gary Hooser as we begin the next phase of our clean geothermal renewable energy development projects. We view HRS 343 not as a regulatory hurdle to get through as quickly as possible, but as a sincere process of disclosure to protect the Islands, to inform the community and benefit our company, as well. Gary Hooser will uphold these values as we move forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Shawn James Leavey
Public Relations Officer
Moku Power, LLC

COUNTY COUNCIL
JAY FURFARO, CHAIR
JOANN A. YUKIMURA, VICE CHAIR
TIM BYNUM
DICKIE CHIANG
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
NADINE K. NAKAMURA
MEL RAPOZO



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
 Council Services Division
 Elections Division

PETER A. NAKAMURA, County Clerk
EDUARDO TOPENIO, JR., Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
 Facsimile: (808) 241-6349

3371-A WILCOX ROAD
 LIHU'E, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766
 E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

TESTIMONY OF TIM BYNUM
KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
MR. GARY HOOSER
AS DIRECTOR

FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
MARCH 3, 2011 AT 2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of GM 524 relating to the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

In my capacity as an individual Councilmember, I have personally known Gary Hooser for many years as a community volunteer, businessman, Councilmember, and State Senator. Mr. Hooser has demonstrated his concern for the community as well as his concern for the land. He is a man of great integrity and compassion. Mr. Hooser is sensitive to environmental issues and will definitely strive to maintain the best quality of the State's environment.

For the reasons stated above, I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Mr. Gary Hooser and I am confident that Mr. Hooser's confirmation will be a great asset to our State.

Sincerely,

Tim Bynum
 Councilmember

I.P: C:\Documents and Settings\Nparongao\Desktop\DESKTOP FILES\HSAC_NACo_WIR_Legislative Packages\LEGISLATION\2011 Legislative Session_BIIJS-TESTIMONIES\TESTIMONIES Outside HSAC Pkg

HERMAN TUIOLOSEGA
3606 Halekipa Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
(808) 732-4287
684olosega@gmail.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**GM 524 & GM 526, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
GARY HOOSER**

**Testimony of Herman Tuiolosega
Planner, OEQC**

March 3, 2011

1 I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Gary L. Hooser as the director for the Office of
2 Environmental Quality Control. GM 524 expires the term on June 30, 2011 and GM 526 expires
3 the term on June 30, 2015. As a planner in OEQC and as also as the OEQC acting administrator
4 during the transition period, from November 2010 to early February this year, I applaud the
5 governor's nomination of Mr. Hooser as the director.

6 The recent University of Hawaii Study of Hawai'i's Environmental Review System
7 identifies needs to improve the State's environmental statutes – Chapters 341 and 343, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes. I believe that Mr. Hooser's experience and leadership provides the ideal
9 candidate that OEQC needs to implement the proposals of the University study and advance its
10 mandate.

11 I hope your committee looks favorably on Mr. Hooser's nomination and confirm him as
12 the next director for OEQC.

13 Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 524 and GM 526.

GM 524 and GM 526

Aloha no,

I, Maya Soetoro-Ng, am hereby submitting my testimony of support for the nomination of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. His hearing in the twenty-sixth legislature, Regular Session of 2011, will take place Thursday March 2, 2011 in Conference Room 225 of the State Capitol (GM 524, GM 526)

It is my fervent belief that Gary Hooser's experience at both the County Council level and at the State Legislature, combined with his background in small business and his strong record on environmental issues, makes him particularly qualified for this position. I have known Gary Hooser for three years and, during this time, I have found Mr. Hooser to be thoughtful, resourceful, personable, and capable. I feel certain that he would be very good at coordinating and directing state agencies in matters concerning environmental quality.

He is profoundly committed to his causes, environmental issues ranking at the top of the list. Mr Hooser would be very industrious in championing environmental and consumer protections. Additionally, his leadership style is neither antagonizing nor feeble; he inspires both comfort and movement and he gets along with a wide array of personalities, allowing him to bridge gaps and get people to work together. These are key qualities for a productive OEQC director and I am confident that, in this position, Gary Hooser will be of great value to our beloved State of Hawai'i.

PO Box 369
Hanalei, HI 96714
(808) 826-9370

TESTIMONY

**Committee on Energy & Environment
GM 524**

Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 PM, Conference Room 225

February 27, 2011

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF GARY HOOSER AS THE
DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL**

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Committee Members,

I write to strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

As a former Environmental Council member, I am very much aware of the responsibilities and skills necessary to successfully fulfill the duties of the position, and Mr. Hooser is very well qualified carry out the job. In addition, Mr. Hooser has extensive experience and commitment to environment issues, adding to his job qualifications. The work of the Office will be greatly improved and enhanced by your appointment of him to the position. I urge you to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Barbara Robeson
Via email

GM 524 and GM 526

The Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control will be confronted with proposals which may affect a change upon the preservation, maintenance or improvement in the quality of our environment in Hawaii. Separating fact from fiction and evaluating the quality and quantity of measures proposed to achieve the best result calls for knowledge and experience in assembling all these considerations for the benefit of all the people of Hawaii.

I believe that GARY HOOSER, as the Governor's nominee for the position of Director, has exhibited the qualities needed to meaningfully and effectively perform the duties of the office as evidenced by his many years serving the people of Kauai as a member of the Kauai Council and as the only Senator from Kauai who served as Majority Leader while in the Senate.

I humbly urge your confirmation of GARY HOOSER

Aloha and Mahalo
Alfred Laureta
2130 Kaneka St., Apt 300
Lihue, Hi 96766

GM 524 & 526 - Gary Hooser Nomination for OEQC Director
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Hearing March 3, 2011, 2:45 pm

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Committee members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of former Senator Gary Hooser for OEQC Director.

As you know, OEQC and the Environmental Council deserve strong leadership and support for their very important role in the statewide environmental review process.

Gary is an excellent choice to renew and strengthen OEQC for the benefit of everyone involved in the Chapter 341 and Chapter 343 processes.

Gary has the extraordinary skills, experience, intelligence, and commitment to take this office through the challenging transition required to meet modern best practices over the next several years.

Mahalo for supporting this very important confirmation.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini

Melissa T. Pavlicek
c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 447-1840

March 1, 2011

Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard
Vice-Chair, Senator J. Kalani English
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Hearing: Thursday, March 3, 2011 @ 2:45 p.m., CR 225

Re: GM526: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER, for a Term to Expire June 30, 2015.

Dear Gentlemen,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and business owner. I have known former state Senator Gary Hooser for more than five years, working with him on numerous legislative issues when he was a state legislator.

Then Senator Hooser and I frequently found ourselves with similar positions on important legislation, especially as it concerned public education, charter schools and the rights of women and children. Just as often, however, we found that we had very different positions from each other on certain types of bills and proposals. No matter whether we were aligned or differed on any issue, Senator Hooser was always diligent, responsive and willing to listen to sound reasoning and to consider good data. He welcomes dissenting viewpoints and encourages constructive argument when it can contribute to good policy-making. His commitment to the people of Hawaii is unquestionable and he is a dedicated public servant.

Please support his confirmation.

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM526

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sherrian Witt
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

Committee: Energy and Environment Committee
Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard
March 3, 2011 Hearing Date
Time: 2:45 p.m., Room 225
Committee Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard
Dear Honorable Senator Gabbard:

I am in support of Gary Hoosier, he is a qualified person for this position and brings integrity and openness to the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherrian Witt, District 5 Chairperson
Hawaii County Democrats
Contact info: sarawitt12@gmail.com

GM 524 and GM 526

Dear Senators,

My name is Lance Holter, I am the chairman of the Maui Democratic party. I am also chair of the Hawaii Chapter Sierra Club-Maui Group. I am a small business owner, Real Estate Broker and Building Contractor. I have known Gary Hooser for many years in various capacities and volunteer organizations, including, from my position of, Chair of the Makawao School Community Council. In every case I have found Mr. Hooser to be an excellent representative for the people of Hawaii our Keiki, Kupuna and citizens. I highly recommend Mr. Hooser as our next Director of the Office of Environmental Quality. He is an outstanding individual and I am delighted that the Administration has nominated Mr. Hooser to this position. Please vote to confirm Gary Hooser.

Aloha Puameha,

Lance Holter
PO Box 790656
Paia, HI 96779

Tele 579-9442

503 PRINCESS STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(808) 227-5932

January 24, 2011

(VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY)

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Energy and Environment Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gary Hooser Support—GM #524 and #526

Dear Senators Gabbard and English:

I have had the privilege of working with Gary Hooser for several years. He is a dedicated public servant committed to sustainability and improving the environment, and, equally important, he knows how to get things done.

While serving in the State Senate, Gary took the lead in passing the nation's first solar hot water requirement for new homes. This legislation has become a national model for environmental legislation, and it demonstrated Gary's foresight and skills as a leader. I believe that these skills make Gary an ideal choice to serve as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

For the past eighteen months, I have had the privilege of serving in the Obama Administration, and this has given me an opportunity to witness the value of strong leadership in an executive branch agency focused on environmental. Based on my personal interactions with Gary, I am convinced that he brings the perfect skill set to a high level position like Director of the Office of Environmental Quality, and that he will serve in this position with distinction.

Re: Gary Hooser

March 1, 2011

Page Two

I highly recommend Gary for this position, and I hope your Committee and the Hawaii State Senate will move forward with his nomination.

Thank you for considering my input.

Very truly yours,

Andrew S. Winer

GM 524 and GM 526

Gary Hooser is an ideal candidate for Director of OEQC. He has legislative experience, he is a small business person, he is a dedicated conservationist with a understand of the necessity of balancing the capacity of our islands with the needs of our citizens. He is a man of vision and will manage the OEQC to best serve the needs of our people while promoting the sustainable use of our island resources.

William Sager, 808-375-1114
Malama Aina - Caring for Hawaii
kumuwaiwai@me.com

Watch Olelo Channel 52 Thursdays at 5pm or go to <http://ow.ly/3PUgu>

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM524

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Wong
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

I believe Mr. Hooser's experience at both the County Council level and at the State legislature, combined with his background in small business and his strong record on environmental issues makes him particularly qualified for this position.

GM 524 and GM 526

Dear Legislators,

I realize you folks probably know more about Gary Hooser's in-depth knowledge of issues and skilled grasp of the facts of environmental issues coupled with an understanding of Hawaii's important economic needs but I wanted to add my voice of approval to yours.

Gary Hooser is not only extremely well-informed but he also takes the time to visit and understand the issues of all islands Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i. This is a terrific advantage for a Director of EQC.

His ability to balance progress and economic needs with the environmental issues that are so important to maintaining our visitor industry make him the hands-down best candidate for the job.

Please confirm Gary Hooser.

Thank you,
Karen Chun
87 Lae St.
Paia HI 96779
(808) 283-3049

GM 524 and 526

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee of Energy & Environment:

My name is Helen Nielsen and I live in east Maui. I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination to the Environmental Quality Control Board, Mr. Gary Hooser.

I am a founder of the Maui Coastal Land Trust and currently Board President of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. I've been volunteering with this group for 11 years now, working to protect important lands in Hawaii in cooperation with large and small landowners, farmers and developers. I am also a small business owner, investing in commercial real estate in Wailuku, Maui and Waimea, Hawaii. My husband and I also raise honey bees in Kaupo and sell honey to a food market in town. I have been active in good land use and planning processes in Maui County for over a decade.

I have known Gary to be a champion of the environment. He is knowledgeable and intelligent. He understands the balance between the needs of economic stimulus and development at the same time protecting the environment and Hawaii's people. Mr. Hooser is fair and a man of integrity, doing research on a given issue before making judgements, always considering Hawaii's future. I have seen him serve selflessly in public office for many years now and believe he would be an asset to the EQCB and would serve the public well.

Please look favorably upon both GM 624 and GM 626 to allow Mr. Hooser to maintain this position to 2015.

Sincerely,

Helen Nielsen

Mailing address: 1942 Main St., Ste. 104, Wailuku, HI 96793
808 283-1038
oluolu@maui.net

March 1, 2011

Fax
101 E N C P CONFIRMATION 011247, -1-1

Faye Kennedy
3071 Felix Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 732-4987

DATE: March 2, 2011

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair , Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and Committee Members

FROM: Faye Kennedy

JK

RE:: GM 524 March 3, 2011 2:45 p.m. Room 225

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the nomination of former Senator Gary Hooser to be the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control for the State of Hawai'i.

I believe he is uniquely qualified for this position because of his long legislative leadership in introducing and helping secure passage of bills protecting the environment, promoting food sustainability and energy independence. As a Kauai councilman and award-winning businessman, he was also able to demonstrate his strong environmental concerns while working effectively with others on a broad range of issues to promote the public and private good .

Although testifying as an individual, my interaction with Gary over the years as co-chair of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights and president of the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus have convinced me that his honesty, accessibility, sound judgment and innate sense of fairness will assure his success in this very important position.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony which, hopefully, will help you to confirm his appointment overwhelmingly.

Testimony

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair – Mike Gabbard
Vice-Chair – J. Kalani English

Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45 p.m.

GM524

Dear Committee Members,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend the confirmation of Gary L. Hooser as Director Office of Environmental Quality Control.

I have known Gary for approximately eight years, in his capacity as a Senator from Kauai. During that period, I had numerous occasions to invite Gary to participate in student activities here at Chaminade University.

He was an exceptionally capable teacher, who clearly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with our best students on public policy matters in general and on matters affecting environmental policy in specific.

His knowledge was obvious to all, but more importantly, his messages of integrity and ethics were the ones that resonated. Our students saw the Senator as a man who could be trusted and as a man who had their interests at heart.

Quite simply, this is a man who will run the Office of Environmental Control in a manner that addresses the public good – no matter whose special interests may be at stake.

I recommend him with great pleasure and without any reservation.

Sincerely,

John Webster
Director, the Hogan Entrepreneurs
University Professor
Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii

**IN SUPPORT OF GARY HOOSER
FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
STATE OF HAWAI'I**

GM 524 and GM 526
Senate Committee on
Energy and Environment
2:45 PM Hearing • Conference Room 225
Thursday, March 3, 2011

At the outset, I am Evan R. Shirley and offer this testimony in support of Gary Hooser's nomination as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, State of Hawai'i.

I offer my wholehearted support of the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Gary Hooser for the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, State of Hawai'i. Please let me tell you why.

Gary was the formally recognized as the Small Business Media Advocate of the Year for Kauai by the United States Small Business Administration. And, he was honored for his business achievements by the Kauai Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Kapa'a.

At the same time Gary Hooser was endorsed by the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Local 5 Unite Here!, the Hawai'i Nurses Association, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i GLBT Caucus, Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i, and the Americans for Democratic Action.

Gary is someone who builds bridges, not walls.

Gary Hooser is a person who unites our people and empowers all of us to strive to better the life for the people of Hawai'i. I cannot think of a more dedicated public servant to become the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, State of Hawai'i than Gary Hooser.

Gary is ideally suited to direct the State of Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality. The job entails regulation and supervision of the varied characteristics that relate to the natural environment as well as the built environment

— such as air and water purity or pollution, noise and the potential effects which such and other characteristics may have on physical and mental health caused by human activities. Gary has a record of achievement. And, his breadth of experience bodes well for his superior performance as Director of the State of Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality.

Gary has deep roots in the State of Hawai'i in that he was former State Senate Majority Leader representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau after he served on the Kaua'i County Council for four years before becoming a State Senator. He graduated from Radford High School in 1972 and then the Hawai'i Entrepreneur Training and Development Institute. He went on to graduate from Kaua'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i— West Oahu with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

Because of his rich and varied life experiences, Gary Hooser will be ideal in monitoring environmental quality, responding to citizen complaints, and enforcing environmental laws and regulations and in providing important oversight of the environmental impacts on our collective lives in the State of Hawai'i.

In short, Gary will help the people of the State of Hawaii continue in strive to implement the motto of Hawaii for nearly 170 years — that of *Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono*, that of The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at Shirley & Associates, Attorneys at Law, 1615 Davies Pacific Center, 841 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3921 (808) 528-2875 and evan@eshirley.com.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii this 1st day of March 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Evan R. Shirley

Evan R. Shirley
SHIRLEY & ASSOCIATES
Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1615
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3921
Telephone No.: 808.528.2875
Facsimile No.: 888.659.3953
E-mail: evan@eshirley.com

Public Testimony in strong support of GM526- Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER

March 1, 2011

My name is Juanita Mahienaena Kawamoto Brown, and I am in strong support to appoint Mr. Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

I met Gary at my first meeting of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and immediately chose to become a member of this most worthy organization. The lasting impression Gary left with me on how his focus and approach to environmental issues was truly filled with aloha for the people and the Aina that has been a part of my native Hawaiian heritage

Gary Hooser has demonstrated over his many years of public service to the people of Hawaii he is a true steward of the land and I believe he will manage and protect our islands as the new Director of the OEQC during such uncertain times . Hawaii is currently facing fuel prices that are reaching staggering triple digit proportions, the horizon of alternative energy is at our doorstep and the ever present need to balance and resolve the tough decisions between the State and the people of Hawaii whose quest is to develop the future of our islands can be best cared for by Gary Hooser, who in my humble opinion defines "Onipa'a"- steadfast, strong, vigilant and accountable.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Mahienaena Kawamoto Brown

March 2, 2011

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Public Hearing: Thursday, March 3, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225

Re: GM 524 / 526 - Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee,

I support GM 524 and GM 526, the nomination of Mr. Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

Mr. Hooser brings much needed experience and presence to the OEQC. He served in the State Legislature for 8 years representing Kauai and Niihau. He served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment during this time, and as Majority Leader for 4 of those 8 years. He introduced, analyzed, and supported legislation affecting the environment on full-time basis.

Mr. Hooser understands the environmental issues confronting Hawaii. He has passed legislation to establish renewable energy portfolio standards and to increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings. He also understands business needs, having worked in the private sector for 20 years. As a representative of Kauai and Niihau, he understands neighbor island concerns.

I believe he will revitalize the OEQC, an office that has undergone a variety of challenges over the past 4 years, and improve relations with the Environmental Council and Department of Health. He is able to bring people with diverse interests together around common purposes. I look forward to working with him at the OEQC.

Please support GM 524 and GM 526.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Scott Glenn
Environmental Planner
scotchglenn@gmail.com
1415 Victoria St, #410
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 2, 2011

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Public Hearing: Thursday March 3, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225

Re: GM 524/526

Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee

I write in support of GM524 & GM 526 and to urge you in the strongest possible terms to confirm the nomination of Gary Hooser to be Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Gary Hooser has proved himself to be a passionate and dedicated servant of the people of Hawaii and a resolute defender of the environment.

He spent eight years in the state Senate, half of them as majority leader. He used his time in the Senate to advance major pieces of environmental legislation, including the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards and the mandatory installation of solar hot water heaters in new homes. Since leaving the Senate he has chaired the state Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus and helped build the Capitol Watch, the new activist & lobbying wing of the Hawai'i Chapter Sierra Club.

Gary Hooser also has a long and honorable career working in the private sector and will bring a businessman's perspective to the job. Furthermore, as a representative of Kauai, he brings neighbor island sensibilities to the discussion.

At a time of mounting concern about the environment, the effect of global warming on our state and Hawai'i's unsustainable dependency on imported food and fuel, he will be an experienced and dynamic official working to advance these issues that are so vital to our future.

I cannot think of anyone more qualified for the job and I urge you to give former Senator Hooser a resounding and unanimous vote of approval.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Aalto

I would like to submit testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment for their hearing on Thursday March 3, 2011 at 2:45pm on GM 524 and GM 526.

I write this testimony in support of Gary Hooser's appointment to the position of Director of the office of Environmental Quality Control. As a long time active member of the Sierra Club I first met Gary when he was a member of the Kauai County Council. He was already building a reputation as someone who put environmental protection at the top of his agenda. Senator Hooser's subsequent work in the state Senate has only built on his environmental legacy. Two areas of legislation that quickly come to me are renewable energy portfolio standards to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and his advocacy for the protection of endangered species. In these and other legislative efforts he has always worked to bring a wide cross section of our population together in support of environmental initiatives. It should be noted that before his period of public service Senator Hooser was a successful businessman for many years. This has provided him with a skill set that will prove valuable as an administrator. All in all I can't imagine anyone better suited to hold this important position than Senator Hooser. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr Phil Barnes
RR2 Box 4756
Kehena Beach, HI 96778
greenhi3@yahoo.com

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anita Glass
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

Senator Hooser is the most informed, intelligent, and caring person on issues of the environment in Hawaii I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and discussing issues with. He can see many points of view, keeps an open mind, and is extremely well informed, always listening, learning, and sharing ideas. He's a leader and an incredibly effective and effective manager of many tasks and people. He will make a great Director of the OEQC, I support GM 524 and GM 526 and Senator Hooser.

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM526

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amarisa Marie
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 3/2/2011

Comments:

Why I Support Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

I support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to environmental protection and the public to be an effective director of this important office.

His record on environmental protection is clear, strong, and consistent. Senator Hooser served in the State Legislature for 8 years representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. He served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection the entire time, and as Majority Leader for 4 of those 8 years. He introduced, analyzed, and supported legislation affecting the environment on full-time basis.

Senator Hooser worked on Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 - the state law governing environmental assessments and impact statements, and he is more than familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council. His experience in the Legislature will serve him well at OEQC.

Senator Hooser also passed legislation to establish impressive renewable energy portfolio standards, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, protect critically endangered species such as the Hawaiian monk seal, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines among countless other environmental protection initiatives.

Prior to serving in the State Legislature, Senator Hooser served on the Kaua'i County Council for 4 years and as a member of the Council's committees on energy and environment the entire time.

Senator Hooser was also in business for 20 years, and he possesses the skills, knowledge, and perspective that come from that experience as well.

Senator Hooser is accessible, and he is a good listener. His is an open-door policy. He is able to bring people with diverse interests together around common purposes, and he gets things done. The OEQC needs a leader, such as Senator Hooser.

I am confident that Senator Hooser will approach the responsibility of being Director of the OEQC with 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible.

I am a member of the natural resources conservation community in Hawaii and ask that you please support GM 524 and GM526 and Senator Hooser.

Mahalo nui loa,
Amarisa Marie

Aloha Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I strongly support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Senator Hooser is a dedicated public servant who has been a strong but pragmatic advocate for environmental protection and conservation solutions that make economic sense. While working at the Trust for Public Land, I had first hand experience seeing Senator Hooser's leadership to establish dedicated land conservation funding at both the county level during his time on the Kauai County Council and at the state level when the Legacy Lands Act passed in 2006. Senator Hooser has long been studying Hawaii's environmental issues and promoting effective solutions. The OEQC finds itself at a juncture where it needs strong and dedicated leadership. I believe that Senator Hooser will provide just that to a critical state office. Please support GM 524 and GM 526.

Mahalo,
Josh Stanbro, Palolo Valley

Aloha-

Yes!! Please approve the appointment of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality. He is a person of the highest integrity and will protect the best interests of the people of the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo-

Debbie Hecht
Kailua Kona, HI
(808) 989-3222

To: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

From: Peter Ehrhorn
254 Kaha St
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Aloha Senators,

Please be advised that I strongly support this appointment. I have known Gary Hooser for a number of years and have found him to be someone that is easy to talk to and who listens. But what I like most about him is that his positions generally tend to be very well thought out and are very logical.

Again I support his nomination and hope that you will too.

Best Regards,

Peter Ehrhorn

David Hamil
41-665 Kumuhau Street
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

March 2, 2011

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
State of Hawaii
Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: Notice of Hearing testimony for Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER, for a term to expire 6-30-2011.

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2011
Time: 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senator Gabbard and Senator English,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

I have known Gary Hooser for many years, and feel that he is an excellent person for this important role. Gary is a man of great integrity and exceptional intelligence, and has the leadership skills and background to perform this role and execute the functions of this office.

Again, I wholeheartedly support Gary Hooser for this important position, and urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

David Hamil

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Janet Gillmar, ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects)
Subject: Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control
Time: 2:45 pm
Date: March 3, 2011

I strongly support Gov. Abercrombie's appointment of former Senator Gary Hooser to be the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control for both his demonstrated interest in environmental protection and his past leadership in the Senate.

I am a landscape architect and hiker who has been involved in environmental concerns for years, especially those connected with the environmental benefits of trees in Honolulu and on the University of Hawaii campus, including their role in storm water management and absorption of carbon dioxide. I recall that Gary Hooser has been active in energy-related and wildlife protection legislation in the Senate.

I support Gary Hooser for Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. My rationale is best expressed by the following quotation of a person more knowledgeable regarding Mr. Hooser.

"Why I Support Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control*
I support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to environmental protection and the public to be an effective director of this important office.

* I have known Senator Hooser for around 10 years. He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working. His record on environmental protection is clear, strong, and consistent.

* Senator Hooser served in the State Legislature for 8 years representing Kaua'i and Ni'i'hau. He served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment the entire time, and as Majority Leader for 4 of those 8 years. He introduced, analyzed, and supported legislation affecting the environment on full-time basis.

* Senator Hooser worked on Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 – the state law governing environmental assessments and impact statements, and he is more than familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council. His experience in the Legislature will serve him well at OEQC.

* Senator Hooser also passed legislation to establish impressive renewable energy portfolio standards, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, protect critically endangered species such as the Hawaiian monk seal, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines among countless other environmental protection initiatives.

* Prior to serving in the State Legislature, Senator Hooser served on the Kaua'i County Council for 4 years and as a member of the Council's committees on energy and environment the entire time.

* Senator Hooser was also in business for 20 years, and he possesses the skills, knowledge, and perspective that come from that experience as well.

* Senator Hooser is accessible, and he is a good listener. His is an open-door policy. He is able to bring people with diverse interests together around common purposes, and he gets things done. The OEQC needs a leader, such as Senator Hooser.

* I am confident that Senator Hooser will approach the responsibility of being Director of the OEQC with 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible. I look forward to working with him and the OEQC. Please support GM 524 and GM 526 and Senator Hooser. Mahalo nui loa.

Lynn"

L. Michael Klungness
Microenvironmental
POB 364
Mountain View HI 96771
808-968-6789 cell 808-895-3075

Thomas T Shirai Jr
P O Box 601
Waialua, HI 96791
Email: Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com

March 2, 2011

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
CHAIR: SENATOR MIKE GABBARD / VICE CHAIR: J KALANI ENGLISH

NOTICE OF HEARING
Thursday, March 3, 2011
2:45PM
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT for GM526 (Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER for a term to expire 6-30-15)

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English & Committee Members,
I support GM526 regarding Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. During his tenure in the Senate, he was Vice Chairman of this committee (Energy & Environment) and therefore his experience speaks for itself. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting GM526. Malama Aina.

Thomas T Shirai Jr

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM526

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Dorothy I. Cornell

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/2/2011

GM 524 and GM 526

Hello,

I support Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

As a senator, Mr. Hooser passed legislation to establish impressive renewable energy portfolio standards, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, protect critically endangered species such as the Hawaiian monk seal, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines among countless other environmental protection initiatives.

We are very lucky to have someone of Gary's integrity willing to take on this important job.

Aloha,

Ann Fielding
Maui, Hawaii

RE: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment this Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 2:45 pm in Conference Room 225

Aloha,

Please support the appointment of Gary Hooser for OEQC director. His interest and experience in this realm makes him perfectly suited for this position, and his understanding of state-wide issues related to natural resources and environmental sustainability is critical for someone in this position to have. He has shown his honesty and integrity, which, above all else, makes him the right person for this job of such huge responsibility.

Mahalo for your support of Mr. Hooser.

Sincerely,
Janice Palma-Glennie
PO Box 4849
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM524

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Penny Levin

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/2/2011

Comments:

I support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to environmental protection and the public to be an effective director of this important office.

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy and Environment

Hawaii State Senate

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 524 and GM 526

Testimony in strong support of Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control

Aloha Senators Gabbard, English and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this written testimony in strong support of Gary Hooser as Director of OEQC. Although I am the CEO of The Outdoor Circle and currently the Chair of the Environmental Council please note that I am speaking only for myself and not as a member of either of these organizations.

Both the OEQC and the Environmental Council have been in disarray for some time. I was extremely pleased with the nomination of Mr. Hooser as OEQC Director since I have worked with him throughout his years as a State Senator. I now have hope that the Environmental Council will receive the respect it deserves. It is clear to me that Mr. Hooser is akamai enough to understand how to work with all types of people and he understands the system. His learning curve is a small one as already exhibited by the fact that the Environmental Council now has a calendar of future meetings as well as a location on Oahu with adequate video conferencing facilities to not frustrate our neighbor island members. We have Mr. Hooser to thank. He has a vision for the Department and for the Council which is focused on the long term betterment of the State and not only on short term goals.

I hope you will approve his appointment so he can dig in and get to the important work of restoring the integrity of Chapters 341 and 343 as well as regaining the respect the Office deserves.

Mahalo for accepting this testimony.

Mary Steiner

225-4563

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chairman of Committee on
Energy and Environment
Kalani English, Vice Chairman of Committee on Energy and
Environment

RE: Confirmation Hearing for Gary Hooser. March 2, 2011
2:45pm, Rm 225

FROM: Michael Christopher, Psy.D., Ph.D.

DATE: March 2, 2011

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Gary Hooser for the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Gary Hooser has an exceptional record as a public servant. His concern for environmental issues is sincere, and he has a record of listening to the community and experts, and then standing up for what is right.

This position requires someone of exceptional character, and Gary Hooser has demonstrated that he meets the highest standards when it comes to intellectual and moral integrity.

I therefore support his appointment wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Christopher
808-734-3904
3734 Harding Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

To: Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Chairman Mike Gabbard
Vice Chairman J. Kalani English

Regarding: Support for the appointment of Gary Hooser to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

March 2, 2011

Aloha, Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chairman English and Committee Members,

The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) was established in 1970 to help stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to maintain the optimum quality of the State's environment. OEQC implements Ch. 343, HRS Environmental Impact Statements. Office planners review and comment on hundreds of environmental disclosure documents each year. At the request of the Governor, the Director of OEQC is empowered to coordinate and direct State agencies in matters concerning environmental quality.

Heading the agency charged with helping to maintain the optimum quality of the environment; leading planners in the review required environmental disclosures; Coordinating and directing State agencies in matters of environmental quality at the Governor's request. Director of the OEQC is a large responsibility, and Gary Hooser is clearly an excellent choice for the job.

Here are some reasons why I think that Gary, whom I have known for more than 25 years, is particularly and highly qualified: Gary's eight years of experience and his strong record as a member of this committee have provided stellar preparation for this position. Gary has gained a statewide overview of the sweep and interconnectedness of environmental issues. Like each of you, he is a diligent yet quick student of environmental law. He stands for the process of environmental review and for providing accurate, timely information to everyone concerned with and affected by projects and programs that can impact our environment. He is thorough about details as he works steadily toward large civic goals.

By temperament Gary is calm, positive, reflective, a listener and a synthesizer. These qualities make him someone who is easy to work with, a good manager. Gary sees and fosters the talents and strengths of others. He balances environmental advocacy with open-mindedness

I strongly support Gary Hooser as Director of the OEQC. I hope that you will too.

Thank you for your attention and for your work.

Respectfully,

Beryl Blaich
PO Box, 1434, Kilauea, HI 96754

Hearing : Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Date: Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 2:45 pm
Where: Conference Room 225
Subject: Gary Hooser appointment as Director of the OEQC

Dear Senators,

As we all know Gary Hooser has been an active Senate member especially in the area of conservation, the environment, and energy use. I can think of no one who is better equipped to handle this job and I am sure you will all vote in favor of this appointment.

Sincerely,

Margery Freeman
6448 Kaahale St.
Kapaa, HI 96746



PAT L GRIFFIN

POST OFFICE BOX 3213

LIHU'E, HAWAII 96766

PHONE: (808) 639 1019

E-MAIL: PATGRIFFIN

@HAWAIIANTEL.NET

March 2, 2011

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment
ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: GM 524

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the
Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee,
GARY HOOSER, for a term to expire 6-30-2011.

IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I am writing to express my complete and unequivocal support of Gary L. Hooser's nomination to the post of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

As a Kaua'i resident, long-time business owner, and current president of the Lihu'e Business Association, I have known Mr. Hooser for more than two decades. Our commercial relationship dates back to the days when my advertising agency placed ads in the magazine he then owned.

Since then, I have had many occasions to seek his advice about both business and community relations efforts, including during his years he served as your colleague in the Hawai'i State Senate. Mr. Hooser was, without fail, respectful in his reviews of the issues and thoughtful in his responses.

Going forward, I have absolute confidence in Mr. Hooser's abilities to provide the expertise and wisdom that the position of OEQC Director requires. Along with many of my associates, I thank Governor Abercrombie for nominating Hooser. He's definitely the man for the job.

I humbly request that both your committee and the entire Hawai'i State Senate vote enthusiastically to confirm Gary L. Hooser's nomination.

Sincerely yours, .

Pat L Griffin

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Dr. Gail L. Grabowsky
Waikiki, Oahu Hawaii, 96815

SUBJECT: Confirmation hearing for Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Hooser for the
position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

March 3, 2011 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Energy and the Environment.

It is my great pleasure and honor to testify in full support of the appointment of Gary Hooser to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). I cannot imagine a better choice for this position.

I am the Director of Chaminade University's Environmental Studies Program and I just finished (July 2011) a full two terms of service on the State's Environmental Council. I was first appointed in 2002 by Governor Ben Cayetano and then was reappointed in 2007 by Governor Linda Lingle. I served my last roughly two years as chair of the Council. My long service on the Council allowed me to witness and learn much about the activities and duties of the OEQC and its important role in Hawaii's environmental review process. I have also become, over the years, aware of the accomplishments of the OEQC as well some of the current needs and opportunities that the OEQC faces.

I have also followed Gary Hooser's political platform when he was a senator as well as when he recently made a bid for Lt. Governor. I find that his particular suite of values and his particular record of accomplishments demonstrate that he is an excellent choice for the Director of OEQC. Gary Hooser is supportive and aware of both (1) the need for responsible sustainable development in Hawaii, and (2) the importance of Hawaii's environment to the health of her people and our economic success. His perfect balance of knowledge of Hawaii's business and development needs coupled with a conscientious support of Hawaii's environment combine with his experience working for the State of Hawaii to make him a superior choice for Director of OEQC.

I have no doubt that Gary Hooser will be an extremely effective and visionary Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Whittemore
P.O. Box 1929
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-1929

March 2, 2011

Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Gary Hooser
as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control
Thurs. March 3, 2011 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI

Aloha!

We are writing in support of Gary Hooser's appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie to serve as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

We have known Gary for nearly 30 years and believe that he is the right person for this position. He has experience at both the County Council level and at the State legislature, has a solid background in small business as well as a strong record on environmental issues. His qualifications certainly make Gary particularly qualified for this position.

We know that he will accept the responsibility of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control with a 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible.

We urge you to approve Gary Hooser's confirmation as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Mahalo,

Thomas P. Whittemore
Tom.whittemore@hawaiiantel.net

Lucinda (Cindy) H. Whittemore
Cindy@CindyWhittemore.com

March 2, 2011

ENETestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

ENE Hearing Thursday March 3, 2011 2:45pm Room 225

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Kalani English and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: GM524/GM526 -Confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Gary Hooser to the position of Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control

Dear Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chairman English and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Gary and I have worked together over the years on a variety of issues pertaining to the environment and economic development. He stands out in my mind as one of Hawaii's foremost leaders who is working towards goals of true cost-sustainable economic development. Many people in Hawaii's admire Gary's deep dedication to building a healthy environment, a diverse and healthy economic base, while addressing concerns of social justice.

As a State Senator and as a Kauai County Councilman, Gary learned much about the Office of Environmental Quality. He is dedicated to work for the health and wellbeing of all people in Hawaii. Gary works diligently to care for the conservation of our natural resources, and he has been an outspoken leader for the need to develop the best practices for the development of energy for Hawaii State.

Not only does Gary Hooser have the professional qualifications to do a great job in this position, but he also has the personal attributes that will make him a good public administrator. He is a respectful, caring and sincere person. He builds trust with those that agree or disagree with him. Gary has a reputation as someone who is fair-minded and who will stand by his word and who does what he says he will do.

Please confirm Gary Hooser to be Hawaii's Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha nui loa,

Keiko Bonk
3734 Harding Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-734-4234
808-938-6888
kbonk@hawaii.rr.com

DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2011
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony In Support of Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Hooser as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to review my written testimony in support of Gary Hooser's nomination for Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control. I have known Gary personally for about two years and have always admired his ability, integrity and dedication to Hawaii's people. In all my interactions with him, Gary Hooser has proven himself as an individual who puts the best interests of his community and the environment first.

I first met Gary when he was a Hawaii state Senator and I was seeking support on a community project. Gary was responsive, interested and supportive. He made a point to learn all he could about the project and how it would serve the greater community. It was evident that Gary is a person who is able to view situations from a broad perspective and who makes thoughtful, intelligent decisions with the benefit of the community ever in mind.

Gary Hooser's excellent record of public service and commitment to the environment is well known and evident in the many issues and causes he has supported and championed. It is also, I believe, well known to the committee so I will refrain from listing them. However, I would like to point out that in addition to his outstanding record as a champion of the environment, Gary is also known as a dedicated advocate of the people who reside in that environment. Gary has a deep understanding that the health of the environment is intrinsically tied to the health and welfare of the people who inhabit it. He knows that we are all stewards of our "aina" and that to be good stewards, we have to understand both the immediate and future impact our actions will have on our environment.

I wholeheartedly and with great conviction support Gary's nomination and appointment as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control and look forward to the great things he will accomplish as Director.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this testimony,

Sincerely,

Edward Mersereau LCSW, CSAC

GM 524 and GM 526

I support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to environmental protection and the public to be an effective director of this important office.

I have followed Senator Hooser's career for around 9 years. He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working. His record on environmental protection is clear, strong, and consistent.

Senator Hooser served in the State Legislature for 8 years representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. He served on the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection the entire time, and as Majority Leader for 4 of those 8 years. He introduced, analyzed, and supported legislation affecting the environment on full-time basis.

Senator Hooser worked on Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 – the state law governing environmental assessments and impact statements, and he is more than familiar with the responsibilities of the OEQC and the Environmental Council. His experience in the Legislature will serve him well at OEQC.

Senator Hooser also passed legislation to establish impressive renewable energy portfolio standards, increase the use of solar water heaters for new single-family dwellings, protect critically endangered species such as the Hawaiian monk seal, and protect our right to save energy and use clotheslines among countless other environmental protection initiatives.

Prior to serving in the State Legislature, Senator Hooser served on the Kaua'i County Council for 4 years and as a member of the Council's committees on energy and environment the entire time.

Senator Hooser was also in business for 20 years, and he possesses the skills, knowledge, and perspective that come from that experience as well.

Senator Hooser is accessible, and he is a good listener. His is an open-door policy. He is able to bring people with diverse interests together around common purposes, and he gets things done. The OEQC needs a leader, such as Senator Hooser.

I am confident that Senator Hooser will approach the responsibility of being Director of the OEQC with 100% commitment to do the absolute best job possible. I look forward to working with him and the OEQC. Please support GM 524 and GM526 and Senator Hooser. Mahalo nui loa.

Megan Deets
808.652.0121

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM's 524 & 526, GARY HOOSER

TO: Committee on Energy & Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair

FROM: Ku'u'lei A. Killiona, Private Citizen

kuuleikilliona@hawaii.rr.com

RE: GM 524 & 526 - Gary Hooser

DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2011

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Committee Members, Senators Ihara, Green and Slom:

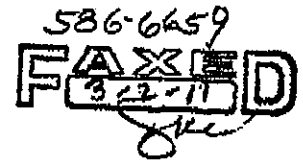
This testimony is in support of the Governor's Nominee for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gary Hooser. Mr. Hooser is known to all of you, having served along side each of you for years as, "*The good senator from Kaua'i.*" Therefore, I feel not much is needed by way of introduction or support for this able candidate. I feel confident in thanking you in advance for your support of this fine character and personal friend, Gary Hooser.

Aloha,

~*Ku'u'lei A. Killiona*

Volcano, Hawai'i

Dante K. Carpenter
3054 Alā Poha Place, No. 401
Honolulu, HI 96818



HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
2:45 PM Thursday March 3, 2011
Conference Room 225

GM 524 RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the *Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER, for a term to expire 6-30-2011; and GM 526 for a term to expire on 6-30-2015.*

Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard, V. C. Chair Sen. J. Kalani English and Members:

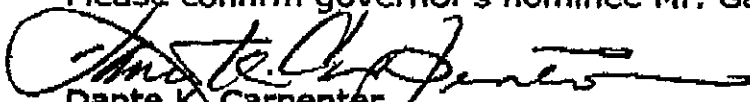
Good Afternoon. My name is Dante Carpenter, a resident of O'ahu, and I am in support of Mr. Gary Hooser, the nominee named in Governor's Messages 524 & 526 for the post of Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, for a combined term to expire June 30, 2015.

I have known Gary Hooser for several years as the Majority Leader of the Hawaii State Senate, a practicing community advocate for the environment who has represented the Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau in the 7th Senatorial District and distinguished himself in relentless pursuit of renewable energy, preservation of shoreline access, affordable housing and agriculture, among others.

A University of Hawaii (West O'ahu) product with a degree in Public Administration, Hooser's political experience includes two terms as a Kaua'i County Councilman in addition to serving in the Senate since 2002. Responsible for passing the nation's first solar water heating system requirement for new homes as well as advocacy for human rights as a leading advocate in the Hawaii State Senate for the Civil Unions Bill (HB444) shows his grasp of a wide range of needs as well as measures of fairness.

His background, training and personal commitment towards the preservation of the environment has earned him several awards from the U. S. Small Business Administration, Kaua'i Chamber of commerce and the Rotary Club of Kapa'a, Kaua'i.

Please confirm governor's nominee Mr. Gary Hooser. Thank You very much.


Dante K. Carpenter
808.833-8163 (D)

GM 524 and 526
2:45p March 3, 2011
ENE Room 225

Testimony in Support

I am writing in support of Gary Hooser's nomination to become Director of OEQC. I had the pleasure and honor of working as a member of then-Senator Hooser's staff in 2008, so I can personally attest to his character and abilities.

The most striking characteristic of Gary Hooser is his integrity. Unlike some, he does not placate or otherwise mislead people with whom he disagrees. His positions are progressive and well reasoned. He honors his commitments. To his credit, "what you see is what you get." He's also served the Senate as a brilliant strategist and effective leader.

Gary's made no secret of his commitment to the environment. Without empty platitudes or blind ideology, in 2008 he introduced and moved the solar mandate into center court.

The OEQC has earned a reputation as a developer's rubber stamp, abdicating responsibility to the public as its watchdog. I have every confidence that, in short order, Gary will familiarize himself with the law and scope of his responsibilities, and implement policies and procedures to satisfy the law and administrative rules--merely by requiring those who request public approval to actually conform their plans to the law. This, in turn, will improve the OEQC function and image.

Please confirm Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. You can do no better!

Respectfully,

-s-

Mary A. Wilkowski, Esq.

Testimony for ENE 3/3/2011 2:45:00 PM GM526

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David Henkin

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/2/2011

Comments:

I support the appointment of Gary Hooser as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Mr Hooser is a dedicated public servant with a long track record of working to protect Hawai'i's environment. He is honest, caring and capable. Hawai'i would be well-served to have Mr. Hooser in this office.



March 3, 2011

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
In Support of GM524

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

I testifying in support of Governor's Message 524 nominating Gary Hooser as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Gary has been a thoughtful and tireless advocate for the environment for as long as I've known him. Not only has he always been on the right side of environmental issues, but during his time in the Senate, he also had a sense of pragmatism when controversial bills arose.

He understands the necessity of protecting our environment, in a Hawai'i as a source of state pride, as draw for tourists, and more importantly as a means to feed ourselves and develop local sources of renewable energy.

As the Director of the State's Office of Environmental Quality Control, I know Gary will work diligently in his capacity reviewing and commenting on the countless environmental disclosure documents issued every year and will work in a positive partnership with Governor Abercrombie to coordinate and direct State agencies in matters concerning environmental quality.

Please support Gary's nomination and pass this measure out favorably to the Senate floor for his confirmation by the full Senate.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Josh Frost

**Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Energy and the Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair**

RE: GM 524 Confirmation of Gary Hooser as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control

I strongly support the appointment and confirmation of Gary Hooser as Director of the office of Environmental Quality Control.

I have known and worked with Gary on environmental issues for around 8 years, and he has always expressed a calm, level headed productive ability to find the fair solution to issues, and the patience, passion and tools to implement these solutions.

I currently serve as Chairman of the Maui Planning Commission, and I am finishing up a 5 year term on the Commission. Our body often serves as the reviewing and accepting agency for EA and EIS documents, and we are the decision-making body on Maui that utilizes Environmental Documents when it comes to shoreline and other planning and land use related issues. Over the past decade, there has been a trend toward a degradation of the Environmental Process and the quality of the documents we have been seeing. One glaring example has been the numerous EA and EIS documents produced by Hawaii State and County Agencies, wherein the same department serves as the applicant, preparing entity and reviewing and accepting authority. Even if the project review and the document created in this fashion is comprehensive and meritorious, at a minimum it creates the perception that the intent of the Chapter 343 process is being circumvented. While it may facilitate the process for Governmental projects, such shortcuts are not available to the general public and private contractors, who are left at an unfair disadvantage.

Gary Hooser has the experience, energy and will power to lead the OEQC back to respectability and fairness in process.

With Aloha,

Jonathan Starr
Kaupo, Maui
(808)249-0032
kalepa@maui.net

3/01/11

To: Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Attention:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Hearing: Thursday, March 3, 2011, 2:45pm Conference Room 225 State Capitol

Agenda: GM524 and GM526 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HOOSER

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee.

I am here today to seek your approval as the new Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. But first I would like to offer my sincerest mahalo to each of you. I know first hand the time, energy and commitment each of you are making on behalf of our State and community and I thank you for that willingness to serve. I would also like to thank the Governor for honoring me with the trust and confidence of this appointment.

The committee has asked me to provide the following information:

- 1) A description of your experience in the field of environmental protection, or any related field;

My experience in the field of environmental protection stems primarily from the past 30 plus years living, working and raising my family on Kauai. During that time I developed a keen awareness of the value and sensitivity of our natural environment. As a private citizen, and as a member of the Kauai County Council and later as a State Senator, I found myself involved in a number of issues pertaining to environmental protection. For the past 12 years I have served on various Energy and Environment Committees, on both the County Council level and in the State Senate. My legislative track record over the past 12 years is dominated by issues involving environmental protection, energy and sustainability.

(2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses;

My weaknesses include my inability to say no when asked to take on a task and to know when to quit when success is not obtainable. In addition, I may tend to try to grow too fast, do too much too soon etc. I tend to be very forgiving, and easygoing. Some would say I do not demand enough of others and that I need to be more willing to delegate and to ask for help.

My strengths I believe are centered in communications, tenacity and creative problem solving – and in the life experience gained during my 57 years of life. I am a people person and know and understand that happy people are essential to the success of any project. I believe that good communications are essential and try my best to always be open, direct and accessible. Just as I have always done in the past, my cell phone number will be on my new business cards and I welcome people to call me directly. Tenacity and creative problem solving speaks for itself. I believe in never quitting and that there is a solution to every problem. My life experience spans the entire spectrum. I have dug ditches and worked construction, owned and operated my own business, and of course have served in various capacities in elective office.

(3) An assessment of the OEQC's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the OEQC's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the OEQC's weaknesses may be improved;

OEQC's strengths are in its staff. While not great in numbers, the existing staff has tremendous institutional knowledge and they are committed to doing the best job they can do with the limited resources that are provided. I am amazed that even given the lack of support this office has endured during recent years, the staff remains upbeat and optimistic about the future. Similarly – the Environmental Council's core membership is knowledgeable, committed and willing to do the work when the proper support is offered.

One of the core missions of the OEQC is "education and outreach". As the resources of the office stabilize, staff will increasingly be engaged in reaching out to other agencies, planners and others who utilize the Chapter 343 process and educating them on the process. In addition, as new

members are added to the Environmental Council, that organization with support from myself and the OEQC staff, will begin anew its mission which is vital to the efficient management of Chapter 343 issues. As Director, my intent is to host in the coming months a basic “retreat” that will serve as a team building and strategic planning session that combines both staff and Environmental Council members (new and old).

Weaknesses of the OEQC are mostly centered on a lack of adequate resources. My immediate assessment is that in order for the OEQC to adequately fulfill its existing legislative mandates, the office is in need of at least one more planner, an additional administrative support person and an extensive upgrade to its technical IT capacity. The successful passage into law of SB699 which would allow the office to charge fees would provide the much needed resources. In addition, as Director my intention is to utilize University of Hawaii interns for research and grant-writing projects.

- (4) An overall vision for the OEQC, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the OEQC’s progress towards those goals;

The overall vision for the OEQC will be determined and finalized through a process involving staff and Environmental Council members. As the Director, my vision for OEQC begins with fulfilling those mandates spelled out in Chapter 341 and include:

- Managing the EA/EIS Chapter 343 process
- Providing education and outreach about the Chapter 343 process to stakeholders around the state.
- Eliminating the backlog of exemption list reviews and rule amendments that now exist
- Publishing as required by law an “Annual Report on Hawaii’s Environment”.
- Being the public’s voice for the environment, that includes legislative advocacy, education and a complaint repository

At the end of four years, my hope would be that the OEQC would be fulfilling its legal responsibility in a robust and professional manner, utilizing modern technology and best practices as recognized around the world.

The setting of annual benchmarks would be a part of our strategic plan and included in our first annual report and updated annually thereafter. The ultimate measure of success would be the quality of Hawaii's natural environment but the office would also develop internal indicators as to the success from an agency/applicant perspective, as to the overall management and success of the Chapter 343 process.

- (5) The OEQC's top budgetary priority for the biennium;

OEQC's top budgetary priority is passage of SB699. It is essential that the office have a budget sufficient for basic operations which includes the proper review and comment of existing environmental review documents, support for the Environmental Council, education and outreach and annual reporting requirements. With the passage of SB699, there is the potential to add one additional Planner, additional administrative support, and a long overdue and much needed improvement of the information storage and delivery system.

- (6) An assessment of the OEQC staff's morale, including the turnover rate for personnel; and

Given the declining resource base and various issues and challenges that have confronted the office in the past, I believe that staff morale is surprisingly good. There are presently 4 full time staff members; two planners, one secretary and one environmental health specialist. In the past, the office has employed up to 11 full time staff members.

- (7) Any other information you would like to include.

Serving as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control would be both an honor as well as a huge challenge and a tremendous opportunity. I believe that my solid record on the environment, my background in elective office combined with my experience in business provides me with a unique perspective particularly suited for the challenges the office faces today. My goal would be to help build the OEQC into the organization that the legislature in 1970 intended. They said at that time in the findings clause of Chapter 341:

[§341-1] Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that the quality of the environment is as important to the welfare of the people of Hawaii as is the economy of the State. The legislature further finds that the determination of an optimum balance between economic development and environmental quality deserves the most thoughtful consideration, and that the maintenance of the optimum quality of the environment deserves the most intensive care.

The purpose of this chapter is to stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to determine and maintain the optimum quality of the environment of the State. [L 1970, c 132, pt of §1]