

GM 550

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. HOOSER
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**GM 550, Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY STEINER, to the
Environmental Council, term expiring June 30, 2015**

**Testimony of Gary Hooser
Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control**

March 31, 2011

1 **Office's Position:** The Office of Environmental Quality Control strongly supports the
2 nomination and confirmation of Mary Steiner to the Environmental Council.

3 Since becoming an Environmental Council member in 2007, Ms. Steiner has been a very
4 active participant of Council activities and functions, as indicated by her current role as the
5 Council Chairperson.

6 Mary Steiner's commitment to the community is exemplified by her service as a former
7 member of the Honolulu Mayor's Arborist Advisory Committee (2006 to 2010), a former
8 National Board Representative, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, (1997-2001), and a
9 member since 1998 of the Kaulunani Council, a division of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

10 Since 1992, Ms. Steiner has also been the Chief Executive Officer of the Outdoor Circle,
11 a leading organization dedicated to protecting the beauty of our islands.

12 It is no secret that the past few years have been especially challenging for both the OEQC
13 and for the Environmental Council. In her current role as Chairperson of the Environmental
14 Council, Mary has been at the forefront, working hard with the Office of Environmental Quality

1 Control to hold it all together, to re-establish regular Council meetings and ensure that the
2 Environmental Council fulfill its legal mandates including the facilitation and support of Chapter
3 343. Her leadership and persistent commitment to getting the job done has resulted in the
4 gradual rebuilding of momentum and energy on the Council. As a result, progress is now being
5 made on several fronts including addressing a back log of “exemption list” requests from various
6 counties and state agencies.

7 I am personally very pleased that Ms. Steiner has been reappointed and that she is willing
8 to continue serving on the Environmental Council. It is my sincere hope that your respective
9 committee looks favorably on Ms. Steiner’s nomination, that she is ultimately confirmed by the
10 Senate and that she is able to continue in her service as a valuable member of the Environmental
11 Council.

12 Thank you.



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

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April 31, 2011

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

GM 549 Charles Prentiss, GM 550 Mary Steiner, GM 573 Marjorie Ziegler

Senator Gabbard
Committee Members

Hawaii's Thousand Friends supports the confirmation of Charles Prentiss, Mary Steiner and Marjorie Ziegler to the Environmental Council.

Charles Prentiss, president of Hawaii's Thousand Friends, has devoted himself to protecting Hawaii's environment and making the islands a better place to live. His leadership as chair of the Kailua Neighborhood Board has resulted in an active and effective board. His expertise in land use planning has helped board members and the community understand planning laws and processes. With his leadership skills and planning expertise Chuck will be a positive contributor to the Environmental Council.

As CEO of The Outdoor Circle *Mary Steiner* has led the effort to protect Hawaii's green landscapes, valuable trees and keep the islands billboard free. As chair of the Environmental Council she has worked to ensure that meetings are open and accessible to the public. With her knowledge of environmental laws and *let's get it done* style Mary will be a valuable asset to the Environmental Council.

Marjorie Ziegler is a team player, organizer and collaborator. Marjorie takes great pleasure in bringing people together for discussions on how to solve pressing environmental issues. Her life's work has been to protect Hawaii's fragile and finite environment. Her collaborative style and knowledge of Hawaii's environmental issues and laws make her an excellent choice for the Environmental Council.

Donna Wong
Executive Director



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 547, GM 548, GM 549, GM 550, and GM 573

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 **support** the appointments of David Atkin, Scott Glenn, Charles A. Prentiss, Mary Steiner, and Marjorie F.Y. Ziegler to the Environmental Council.

These candidates, by their service in a public or private capacity, have demonstrated significant knowledge about Hawaii's unique and fragile environment. We believe these candidates know that achieving a balance between economic development and environmental quality is a necessary component to Hawaii's long-term growth, and can provide the thoughtful consideration and care specified under Haw. Rev. Stat. § 341-1.

OEQC is currently facing many challenges. It needs strong leadership to fulfill its mission of ensuring informed decision-making. We believe these candidates can provide that leadership, as well as ensure the state is achieving its environmental goals and policies.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony for ENE 3/29/2011 2:45:00 PM GM550

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Carol Kwan

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Mary Steiner is well informed of environmental issues in our State and is eminently qualified for the position.

Testimony for ENE 3/31/2011 3:00:00 PM GM550

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Carin Lim

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

I met and have worked with Mary Steiner through my volunteer work as a Girl Scout leader. As the CEO of the Outdoor Circle, Mary mentored two Girl Scouts in my troop who took on a two year long project involving Exceptional Trees. The girls learned about the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program and wrote a Kaulunani grant to fund their project- a walking tour brochure of Exceptional Trees. The purpose of this Girl Scout Gold Award project (completed at the end of 2010), was to promote environmental awareness and protection of the urban forest- two huge initiatives that Mary passionately supports. Mary's support of this project and work with two high schoolers resulted in the publication of 8,000 Exceptional Tree walking tour brochures, and significant media coverage, which met the girl's goals of educating the public about protecting the environment and Exceptional trees. This successful project is testimony in itself, in Mary's support. I wholeheartedly support Mary Steiner's confirmation (to serve on the State's Environmental Council). She would be an invaluable asset to the Council.

GM 550

Aloha,

I would like to submit testimony in support of Mary Steiner's appointment to the State of Hawaii Environmental Council.

As a Board Member of The Outdoor Circle (TOC), I have worked very closely with Mary Steiner for the past 7 years. As Past President, former Treasurer and current Advisor of TOC's Board I have worked directly with Mary on Administrative issues, Environmental issues and various projects in our community as well as on neighbor islands. I am honored to consider Mary Steiner a friend and colleague.

Mary acts on issues with the utmost integrity, professionalism and diplomacy. She shows a sincere concern and passion for Hawaii's beautiful environment. She has an ability to focus on an issue, yet consider all aspects equally. Mary feels a responsibility as a steward of our environment for future generations. She has been on the City's Arborist Advisory Committee for many years, protecting the urban landscape and Exceptional Trees of the City and County of Honolulu. Mary has also been on the Kaulunani Council of Urban Forestry since 1997. Her commitment to protecting Hawaii's environment is unparalleled.

I highly recommend Mary Steiner for a position on the Environmental Council for the State of Hawaii. I think the people of the State of Hawaii would be fortunate to have her serve in this capacity.

Regards,

Denise L. Soderholm

President
Soderholm Sales and Leasing, Inc.
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Testimony for ENE 3/31/2011 3:00:00 PM GM550

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Glenn
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mary Steiner to serve on the Environmental Council.

Mary Steiner has been instrumental in re-energizing a moribund Council. Prior to Mrs. Steiner's assuming the role of Chairperson, the Council had not met for several months due to logistical difficulties and a lack of administrative support. Mrs. Steiner has sought to resolve these obstacles and to her credit the Council has met regularly since the fall.

Mrs. Steiner exhibits a collaborative style of leadership for the Council. She has a sincere commitment to the environment and seeks to improve the environmental review process. I believe she is instrumental to making the the Environmental Council a more effective body.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**Testimony of
Bob Loy
41-012 Aloiloi St.
Waimanalo, Hawaii**

**Strong Support
For GM550
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Environmental Council
Mary Steiner**

**Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday March 31, 2011
3:00 PM
Room 225**

I have known Mary Steiner for more than 6 years and have found her to be an effective and fair champion for Hawaii's Environmental Laws and for the protection of the unique environment of our state.

In her first term on the Environmental Council (EC) Ms. Steiner has shown a deep commitment for the EC, even during its darkest hours. It has been largely through her efforts that the EC has been able to function, especially during the past year when the EC suffered mightily from a lack of commitment and support from the previous administration.

As the CEO of The Outdoor Circle Ms Steiner is a long time fixture in Hawaii's environmental community. She is uniquely qualified for this appointment with her extensive knowledge of environmental issues and experience in working with government, private and non profit sectors.

Through her years of environmental work in Hawaii Ms. Steiner has proven to be an unabashed supporter of protecting and preserving Hawaii's beauty and natural resources. She is tough but committed to equitable treatment for all. She is a collaborator who will go the extra mile to ensure that the Environmental Council considers all sides of an issue before making decisions.

In this past year, as Chair of the EC, Ms Steiner has displayed extraordinary leadership and tenacity that has guided this troubled governmental body through rough seas. Our fellow citizens and this legislature owe her a debt of gratitude for never wavering in her commitment to serve the State of Hawaii and the EC when others have thrown in the towel.

This committee will be casting votes for a number of appointees to this important arm of state government but none is more deserving of your complete support than Mary Steiner.

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

Public Hearing: March 31, 2011
3:00 pm, Room 225

**Re: GM 550, Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Mary Steiner
for the State Environmental Council**

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

I am writing in **strong support** of GM 550, the gubernatorial nomination of Mary Steiner for the State Environmental Council.

I had the pleasure of working alongside Mary Steiner when I served on the Environmental Council several years ago, and have always been greatly impressed by her leadership and commitment. Her service as Council Chair in the past year, during very difficult times for the Council, are a testament to Mary's tenacity, commitment to fair process, smarts, and leadership. She deserves the Legislature's thanks and strong support. Her reappointment is an important step forward to strengthening the Council and its collaborative relationship with OEQC and all stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify



Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapio Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

March 24, 2011

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Governor's Message 550
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY STEINER, for a term to expire 6-30-2015
Personal Statement

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

I have been the CEO of The Outdoor Circle since October of 1992. My responsibilities include promoting the goals and aims of the organization. I am responsible for managing the staff and budget, developing strategic plans and managing all communications. Additionally, executing the policies and programs determined by the Board of Directors is my responsibility.

I am completing my first four year term on the Environmental Council (EC). On the EC I was the chair of the Council's Exemption Subcommittee and since September 2010 I have been chairperson of the Environmental Council. I strongly believe in the integrity of Hawaii's environmental review process. I also believe that we must educate others to better understand how our system works and in so doing the result will be the protection of our environment.

☑ At The Outdoor Circle I am required to work closely with volunteers. All volunteers require a certain amount of "care and feeding." Environmental Council volunteers are no different. Understandably OEQC staff does not have the time to do this and I believe that as chair it's my responsibility. I try to stay connected with all of our members and keep everyone motivated and on the same page. I also believe firmly in transparency and am committed to working with the EC and with OEQC to maintain the highest of standards.

I believe the next four years are extremely important to the EC and to OEQC. During these four years I would like to see the Council enact rule changes that will define roles and responsibilities as well as update all agency exemption lists. This will result in greater clarity and a better understanding of the exemption process. I also would like to help OEQC technologically by enhancing its website. As a member of the community who frequently uses the current website I believe that many improvements can be made.

Hawaii is a very small state and conflicts of interest are common. The EC's Deputy Attorney General has instructed our members to contact the State Ethics Commission should they feel there may be a conflict of interest on a project. In addition, I have a personal conflict on the Council. I am married to David Atkin, another member. He and I have succeeded in balancing our personal and our professional lives for a very long time. I do not foresee a problem serving on the Council together.

In conclusion, you have asked for three qualities that best describe me. I believe others would tell you that I am honest (to a fault), have a decent sense of humor and I am incredibly well organized. These qualities allow me to work well with people, not lose track of details and I can always laugh at myself.

I am honored to have been nominated by the Governor for another four years on the Environmental Council. I plan to attend the hearing on March 31 and hope to answer any questions or concerns the Senators may have.

Thank you for helping to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Mary Steiner
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808-593-0300
808-593-0300