

GM569

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDY CHING, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.
(Term amended to 6-30-2013 by GM575)**

April 3, 2011

Water, Land and Housing Committee
re: GM 569
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, chair

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz. You have requested a written statement that answers some questions you have about my nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission (GM 569). Here are answers to your questions:

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the NARS Commission?

I have been on more than a dozen service trips to various NARS reserves over the last 2 decades, removing weeds and planting native plants (some endangered) on the Big Island and Oahu. I love these special places. They are a part of Hawaii that most people never see. Most of the reserves have native flora and fauna that are rapidly disappearing. These species need protection and the reserves offer them protection from feral animals, wild animals, invasive plants and animals. An example is the predator-proof fence that was recently installed at Ka'ena Point. I strongly supported that project because it protects the albatross, shearwaters and monk seals.

2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the NARS Commission?

The members of the Commission have the responsibility to learn what is going on at various reserves in the state. I believe they also have a responsibility to advocate for the maintenance and enhancement of the NARS reserves. And one role of a commission member is to advocate for solutions to problems at the reserves. And that sometimes means asking for money. I know the State has a large deficit and money is very tight, but the NARS deserves a budget that protects these very special places.

3) Why do you believe you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the NARS Commission.

I believe that I am qualified because of my passion for protecting Hawaii's natural resources. I have been a hiker for 3 decades and been an advocate for the environment for 2 decades. Because of my service trips to various reserves, I know what challenges the NARS staff faces in doing their work. So I am well acquainted with the kind of work that needs to be done. I know firsthand the immense problem of removing alien species and protecting rare and endangered native flora and fauna. They don't vote, but I can vote for them by advocating for their protection.

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

I hope to see the NARS given the resources to accomplish their mission. That could mean more money, more staff, more equipment, more volunteer groups assisting in the mission. And I would like to be a voice for the endangered plants and animals that live in the reserves.

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

I am an advocate for the protection of Hawaii's natural resources. I love getting my hands dirty (literally). I understand the difficulties involved in navigating the political process to get adequate funding for NARS. These qualities would benefit the NARS Commission because I'm passionate about the NARS reserves and the habitat they provide for native species, especially those rare and endangered ones. And I understand how difficult it is for DLNR to accomplish their mission with the extremely limited budget they have. So I can deal with the difficulties, the disappointments, the frustration of working through the process because once in a while, there is success. That makes it worthwhile.

6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the NARS Commission?

I lived in a Zen Buddhist monastery for four months in 1986-87. The most incredible experience of my life. I don't know how this would benefit the commission. All I can say is that the experience opened my eyes and my heart to the world. It helped me see the difference between reality and illusion and what I must do to make myself a better person.

7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the NARS Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I know Betsy Gagne, the secretary of NARS, as a friend and environmental advocate. She has been my mentor in all things NARS. So that could present a possible conflict of interest. I don't see how, but I thought I should mention it. As to overcoming a conflict of interest, I would have to recuse myself from any vote on that issue.

I hope these answers have been helpful to you, Senator Dela Cruz. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at oahurandy@yahoo.com or call me at 942-0145. Mahalo for your interest in my nomination (GM 569).

Sincerely,


Randy Ching

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, April 14, 2011
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 569 –
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RANDY CHING,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports Governor's Message 569, nominating Mr. Randy Ching as the Hiker Representative to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

Mr. Ching is a 1975 graduate of Iolani School and subsequently graduated from the University of Hawai'i Manoa (University) in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture, before earning a Professional Degree in Secondary Education, Mathematics, from the University in 1984. Mr. Ching taught Mathematics at Wai'anae High School from 1984 to 1990, then at Maryknoll Schools before retiring from the classroom. He was a member of the Hawai'i Teachers Association throughout his teaching career, serving as Secretary of the Leeward O'ahu Teachers Association from 1987-1989. He also served as a docent for the Hawai'i Nature Center from 2004 through 2010, and has been an active member of League of Women Voters and Voter Owned Hawai'i.

Mr. Ching's primary passion is hiking and sharing knowledge with others, to this end, he is the current Outings Chair and member of the Executive Committee of the O'ahu Group of the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mr. Ching has led and participated in numerous Sierra Club Service Trips to the following Natural Area Reserves: Ka'ena Point, Pahole, Mount Ka'ala, Pu'u Maka'ala and Manuka; which has given him a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the importance of such areas.

The Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) advises the Board of Land and Natural Resources on matters that affect the protection and management of native ecosystems. There are eight Governor-appointed members: six with scientific backgrounds, one representing hiking interests and one representing hunting interests; and five ex-officio members representing the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Board of Agriculture, Office of Planning, University of Hawai`i, and Department of Education. With the appointment of Mr. Ching, the Commission will be at its full 13-member compliment. Department staff looks forward to working with him and the time and expertise that he can bring to this Department.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: Thursday, April 14, 2011

1:20 p.m.

Room 225

Support for GM 569 - Nomination of Randy Ching to the
Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawaii is pleased to support GM 569 and the nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission. I have known Randy for over 10 years. He is active with the Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter and Sierra Club, O'ahu Group, and he is very knowledgeable about the native Hawaiian environment and outdoor recreation.

Randy walks the talk. He has volunteered literally hundreds of hours over the last 20+ years building and repairing trails, and protecting watersheds, forests, and coastal ecosystems. He knows first hand what needs to be done to perpetuate the NARS legacy for future generations. He has participated in service projects in the Mount Ka'ala, Pahole, and Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserves, as well as reserves on Hawaii Island.

Randy has a background in public education, which will help the NARS Commission communicate the importance of the NARS and the challenges we face protecting these special native ecosystems and geologic sites.

Randy works well with others, gets things done, and will serve the public well on the NARS Commission. Please confirm the nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



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

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President: Hannah Springer * Vice-President: Julie Leialoha * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Maka'ala Ka'aumoana
Directors: Rick Barboza * Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maura O'Connor *
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: davidhenkin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM569 on 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM
Date: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:43:51 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM GM569

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Henkin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: davidhenkin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Randy Ching to serve on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ching on a range of projects to protect Hawai'i's environment. He has consistently demonstrated his commitment to preserving our unique and fragile resources for future generations. Mr. Ching's background and depth of knowledge will be invaluable to the NARS Commission, and I urge the committee to support his confirmation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM569 on 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM
Date: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:50:22 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM GM569

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea I. Jepson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members, Please know that I am in full support of Randy Ching being confirmed to serve on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. He is a dedicated environmentalist whose years of experience as outings leader for Sierra Club have instilled in him a clear overview and understanding of the needs of the aina.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: lea.hong@tpl.org
Subject: Testimony for GM569 on 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM
Date: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:53:13 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM GM569

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lea Hong
Organization: The Trust for Public Land
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lea.hong@tpl.org
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports the nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

I have personally known Randy for many years (well over a decade). Randy has on the ground knowledge of the Natural Area Reserve System, having led and participated in many volunteer services trips to different Natural Area Reserves (NARs) throughout the islands. He has spent hundreds of his own personal time pulling weeds and eradicating invasive species in the NARs and native ecosystems throughout the State.

He has been a strong, yet civil and respectful advocate for the environment for over two decades. He is extremely hard working, dedicated, and a valued member of any team. He understands the NARS system, and will serve the public well on the NARS Commission. Please confirm the nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
The Trust for Public Land

April 6, 2011

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair, Water, Land, and Housing Committee
Via Trina Ishii, Committee Clerk
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: **GM 569:** Randy Ching, Gubernatorial Nominee
Natural Area Reserves System Commission
Confirmation hearing date: **Friday, April 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m.**

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

Enclosed is my testimony in **support** of the nomination of Mr. Randy Ching to the hiker position on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

Very truly yours,

Gwen Sinclair
1930 'Ālewa Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96817
808-753-0528
sinklair808@earthlink.net

Statement of
GWEN SINCLAIR

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Thursday, April 14, 2011
1:20 p.m.

In consideration of

Governor's Message 569

Nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and members of the Senate Committee on Water,
Land, and Housing:

I am pleased to provide testimony as a private citizen in **strong support** of the
confirmation of Mr. Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission
(NARSC).

I have known and worked with Mr. Ching as a Sierra Club volunteer since 1993. He has
demonstrated a strong commitment to the preservation of natural areas in Hawai'i
through his volunteer work. I currently serve with Mr. Ching on the Outings Committee
of the O'ahu Group, Sierra Club, which he chairs. In addition to conducting an outings
program to introduce participants to environmental issues in Hawai'i, we have also
organized numerous service projects and outings within the Natural Area Reserves on all
of the main Hawaiian Islands.

Statement of Gwen Sinclair
GM 569: Randy Ching, Gubernatorial Nominee
Natural Area Reserves System Commission
Page 2

Mr. Ching has led and participated in numerous Sierra Club service projects and hikes within the state's Natural Area Reserves, and he is well aware of the many issues that must be examined by the NARSC. Through his 18 years as a Sierra Club outings leader, Mr. Ching has demonstrated that he is very knowledgeable not only about environmental issues, but also about social and political issues such as hunting and fishing, access for cultural practitioners, and funding for the NARS. As a former mathematics teacher, Mr. Ching possesses the ability to understand the many technical details and complex governing structure of the NARS in a way that will enable him to make informed, reasoned contributions to the NARSC.

I urge the Committee to support Mr. Ching's nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Natural Area Reserve System
Water, Land, and Housing Committee
Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

This testimony is to support Randy Ching for membership on the NARS Commission.

Several years ago, Randy was one of a number of Sierra Club outings leaders who helped me train as hike leader, and he was very helpful. He is knowledgeable, informative, and enthusiastic, in addition to being a genuinely likable person.

I have been a Sierra Club hike leader now for a number of years, and have led many Seminar hikes into the Ka'ena Point NAR, one of my favorite hikes. The last hike in, on March 20, 2011, my Sierra group worked with NAR representative, Dave Anderson to pull up 2000+ ha'ole koa seedlings near the point.

Randy has been on several dozen service projects to Mt. Ka`ala, Pahole and Ka`ena Point NARS over the years. He has been on over a dozen service trips to Big Island NARS reserves. He has been an outings leader with the Sierra Club for 18 years, and he is outings chair for Sierra Club, Oahu Group. He has been an advocate for the environment for more than 2 decades, and he understands the issues facing the NARS, especially the lack of funding.

I heartily recommend Randy to the NARS Commission. He would be an excellent knowledgeable, experienced, and enthusiastic member.

Sincerely,

Colleen Soares, Ph.D.

April 6, 2011

Testimony in Favor of GM 569
Nomination of Randy Ching for Natural Area Reserve System Commission

To: Committee on Water, Land & Housing
Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chair
Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and members of the Committee on Water, Land & Housing:

My name is Annette Kaohelaulii and I would like to testify in support Governor's Message 569, for the nomination of Randy Ching to a position on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission representing the hiking community. I served two terms on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission from 1997 to 2005. The last two years I served as Chair of the NARS Commission. I know the kind of temperament and knowledge that is required of a NARS Commissioner.

I feel that Randy Ching is a fine representative of the hiking community and will be an excellent addition to the commission. He has had extensive experience hiking in Hawaii and has even done the Appalachian Trail. He has chaired the Sierra Club, Oahu Group's Outings Committee for many years, so is familiar with most of the hiking trails on Oahu. This position required that he work with the major landowners to secure permission to use trails on their property. Because the Sierra Club also does service projects for state and federal agencies across the state, Randy has had extensive experience in a variety of natural landscapes doing habitat restoration and invasive species removal.

He understands how important natural ecosystems are to the protection of the state's water resources and will work diligently to find the proper balance between natural resources and human development. As a conservationist he will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the wonders of Hawaii's unique and varied ecosystems.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on GM 569. I urge you to confirm the nomination of Randy Ching to a position on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission.

From: [Reese Liggett](#)
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Subject: Regarding confirmation hearing scheduled April 14
Date: Monday, April 11, 2011 10:41:34 AM

Testimony submitted by William R. Liggett, private citizen, to the leadership and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:20 pm in room 2.

I give my strongest support to the appointment of Randy Ching to NARS Commission.

1. Mr. Ching has demonstrated great interest and support for native flora and fauna and natural places around the entire state.
2. As a long-time hiker, and hike leader he has visited many different natural places throughout the state.
3. As a leader of Sierra Club Service Trips he has led volunteers to natural places throughout Hawaii to support government and NGOs tasked to save our natural places from incursions by civilization and invasive plants.
4. And Mr. Ching is a citizen who has demonstrated his willingness to speak up and to testify in support of natural places and their preservation.

The legislature will do well for the NARS Commission by Mr. Ching's appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Reese Liggett

Honolulu, Hawai'i
808.544.9553w
808.732.4489r
808.222,2088c

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Thursday, April 14, 2011 1:20 pm Room 225
Support for GM 569 –
Nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members;

I am in support of GM 569, the nomination of Randy Ching to the NARS commission. Working in the conservation field in Hawaii you can't go far without hearing Randy Ching's name. He has been one of the most active Sierra Club members for the past 18 years, leading hikes not only at NARS sites, but across the Island chain. He has an intimate knowledge of native flora and fauna and understands the threats of invasive species and habitat destruction to our fragile ecosystems.

He has taken hundreds of Sierra Club hikers to amazing locations and open their eyes to a world they may never see without Randy's guidance. His knowledge, experience, and energy will make him a perfect addition to the NARS commission and for these reasons I am in support of GM 569 and hope that you will all vote in support.

Thank you
Chelsea Arnott

From: da_baileys@hawaiiantel.net
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for GM 569 - Nomination of Randy Ching to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission
Date: Monday, April 11, 2011 9:56:51 AM

This is in support of Randy Ching's confirmation by the Governor to serve on the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission hearing before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011 1:20 pm in room 225.

I have known Randy for several years as very active Sierra Club hike leader and outings chairman. He encouraged and supported me during my process of becoming a Sierra Club leader. Along the way he taught me about numerous native plants and watershed issues on O'ahu. His vast and endless knowledge along with his many ideas to help preserve our aina for present and future generations has been an inspiration.

One example was his backbreaking volunteer work on Kuli'ou'ou where he installed hundreds of steps in such a fashion as to prevent further erosion and make the trail safe and enjoyable again. He coordinated the materials, the transportation and the other volunteers over a period of several months until the work was done. Then he would periodically return often by himself to touch up and remedy any loose ends.

Randy will be a valuable person to have on NARS Commission. Ask anyone on any trail and they will know Randy or heard of him. Please confirm his nomination so he can continue to leave his legacy and live his dreams.

Sincerely,
Richard Bailey