

GM 610

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. HOOSER
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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CONTROL
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**GM 610, Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, SHANNON D. MEARS, to the
Environmental Council, term expiring June 30, 2014**

**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 confirmation of Shannon D. Mears to the Environmental Council.

3 Shannon Mears background and legal research experience with various local law firms,
4 the Ninth Court of Appeals, and the Legislative Reference Bureau, provides valuable experience
5 in the area of research and issue assessment. Mr. Mears has also demonstrated a solid
6 commitment to community service, spending two years working on a service mission in
7 Columbia, as a Red Cross volunteer on Maui and also volunteered with Friends of Haleakala.

8 A graduate of the U.H. William S. Richardson School of Law, Shannon has interned at
9 the legislature, been involved in a variety of community activities and has expressed strong
10 interest in using his training and experience in support of the greater good of the community.

11 The Office of Environmental Quality Control values Shannon's commitment to
12 community and public service and hope your respective committee will confirm his membership
13 to serve on the Environmental Council.

14 Thank you very much.

GM 610

I would like to submit my testimony on the character of Shannon D. Mears. I have to admit that he is my son and I'm very proud of him and probably a lot biased about him. Mothers tend to be that way. I do want to say that I feel Shannon will be a real asset on this committee. He will do the research needed and he will stand up for what he feels is right. He loves Hawaii (Who Wouldn't) and he will do his very best to not ruin your beautiful state and yet I know he will be fair in evaluating improvements and projects that may or may not be needed. Shannon is extremely like-able and easy to get along with. He loves to debate issues and as I said before, he will stand up for what he truly believes to be right. He will work long and hard for Hawaii and I'm sure you will enjoy having him on board The Environmental Council.

Thank you for considering my son,
Dorothy Mears

TO: HON. MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FROM: JAMES S. WILLISTON, ESQ.

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE GM-610 (2011) – NOMINATION OF SHANNON D. MEARS TO SERVE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

I am writing to urge members of the Committee on Energy and the Environment to approve the nomination of Shannon D. Mears to the Environmental Council. I have known Shannon for the past four-and-a-half years, since he began law school at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law and I was paired with him in the Law School's Launch a Lawyer Program.

I have found Shannon to be extremely bright, concerned about the future of Hawaii and our planet, and willing to roll up his sleeves to keep Hawaii a healthy place to live and raise a family. I know that his legal training and experience with the Legislative Reference Bureau will provide invaluable assistance to the Environmental Council in its role as liaison between the Director of Environmental Quality Control and the public, and as the body hearing appeals from the nonacceptance of environmental assessments by state agencies.

Again, I urge the Committee on Energy and the Environment to recommend approval of the nomination of Mr. Mears to serve on the Environmental Council.

GM 610

Senator Mike Gabbard
Energy and Environment Chair
State Capitol, Room 2001
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I am writing to express strong support for State Environmental Council appointee Shannon Mears.

I am a former staff member of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, a non-profit environmental watchdog group dedicated to enforcing Federal mandates and preserving the natural environment and beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin, which sits on the California/Nevada border.

Having had the experience of working for a watchdog group, I know first hand what it is like to take a strong, unpopular stand in a small community, as well as, collaborate with government agencies and private companies to ensure the best outcome for all parties.

Shannon Mears is more than capable of maintaining the Council's goals and his sworn oath in a gracious manner. I have no doubt he will uphold the letter and the spirit of the laws set forth by the legislature and will represent the State well. It seems reasonable to assume that this position takes excellent research, the ability to assess multi-dimensional pieces of information, long term planning, conviction, and the ability to negotiate. Shannon Mears possesses all of these skills and qualities. I have been impressed many times by his ability to negotiate with a spirit of integrity. Additionally, his desire to make the world a better place is impressive and refreshing.

Maria Lebron

LAW OFFICE OF
DAVID S. BRUSTEIN

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March 30, 2011

VIA EMAIL: ENETestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chairman
Senate Committee On Energy & Environment
415 So. Beretania Street, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Mr. Shannon Mears to the Environmental Counsel

Dear Chairman Gabbard:

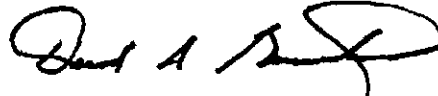
Please accept this correspondence as testimony in support of the nomination and appointment of Mr. Shannon Mears to the Environmental Counsel. It is my understanding the confirmation Hearing in this matter is set for Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. before the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment.

The undersigned has been an attorney in good standing practicing in the area of civil litigation in Honolulu, Hawai'i for the past 26 years. I first met Shannon Mears as a first-year law student at the University of Hawai'i, Richardson School of Law. I was interviewing several first-year law students for a prospective position as a researcher and legal assistant. Mr. Mears was by far the most qualified. I have since worked with Shannon over the past three years on numerous research projects and legal matters. On a professional level, I have always found Shannon to be highly intellectual, analytical, impartial and an extremely hard worker. He also has sound judgment with respect to his legal, ethical and moral thinking. Finally, on a personal level, I have grown very fond of both Shannon and his wife Maria. They are both fine, bright, young and energetic people and a pleasure to be around. I have no reservations whatsoever in highly recommending Shannon for the Environmental Counsel. I believe he will be an asset to his colleagues on the Counsel and all who rely upon their advice and sound legal analysis.

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chairman
Senate Committee On Energy & Environment
March 29, 2011
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Unfortunately, due a conflict in my schedule, I will not be able to be physically present for Shannon's confirmation Hearing or to deliver testimony in person. However, please accept this written testimony in lieu thereof. Additionally, should anyone reviewing this letter of recommendation have any questions or wish to discuss this matter in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,



DAVID S. BRUSTEIN, ESQ.

DSB:mo/5287L

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment

Andrew G. Odell
3273 Kaimuki Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 895-6539

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Support for GM610, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHANNON D. MEARS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

My name is Andrew Odell, and I am testifying in support the Governor's nomination of Shannon D. Mears to the Environmental Council -- GM610.

I first met Shannon in the fall of 2007 when we started as first year law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. During law school, Shannon and I were enrolled in a number of the same courses and studied together often. Through our interactions, we have become good friends.

One of Shannon's most admirable qualities is his ability to listen. While Shannon believes strongly in the positions he takes, I have never known him to discount others' opinions. Shannon is a hard-working pragmatist who will weigh all the available facts prior to making a recommendation to the rest of the Environmental Council.

Shannon knows the positive impact that public service can have on our community, and I believe that he will make a great addition to the Environmental Council.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and please support Shannon Mears' appointment to the Environmental Council.

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Twenty-sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Testimony in SUPPORT of the Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee for Environmental
Researcher for the Environmental Council, SHANNON MEARS

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee for Environmental Researcher for the Environmental Council, Shannon Mears.

I know Shannon in both a professional and social capacity, and have had numerous opportunities in both settings to observe that he is a genuine, hardworking, insightful, and intelligent individual.

Additionally, Shannon is a person with a strong desire to serve the community and will unfailingly and unselfishly help his friends and co-workers. His desire to serve others is further evidenced by his participation as a volunteer with service organizations such as Friends of Haleakala, and the American Red Cross, and the completion of a two year service mission in Colombia.

Furthermore, his legal education and training have fostered his natural ability to consider issues with impartiality, and engendered a strong ability to analyze issues and apply legal principals and policy.

These qualities make him an excellent addition to any team, and he would be an exceptional asset to the Environmental Council.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your Committee's confirmation of this nomination.

Sincerely,
Alicia Duffin

**Senate Committee on
Energy and Environment**

March 31, 2011

3:00 pm

Room 225

GM 610

**Consideration and Confirmation to the Environmental Council
Shannon D. Mears**

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to strongly support the appointment of Shannon D. Mears to the Environmental Council. I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Shannon on both a personal and professional level and know him to be easy to work with, technically competent, dependable, and responsible.

If appointed, Shannon will be a great asset to the Council. He epitomizes those qualities we seek in the leaders that serve at the state level - exceptional ethics, discipline, intellectual capacity, and humility. Collectively, these qualities will enable Shannon to work with the Council to improve the State's environmental programs and proceedings. I respectfully urge you to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John Morsey

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: GM610, Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Shannon D. Mears
for the State Environmental Council**

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

I am writing in **strong support** of GM610, the gubernatorial nomination of Shannon D. Mears for the State Environmental Council.

I had the pleasure of knowing Shannon since 2007 when he was a law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and in my legal practice writing and Torts class his first year. Shannon was always very engaging, professional in his demeanor, and balanced in his perspective. He was a serious and accomplished law student, who worked very collaboratively with his peers. His sharp mind, strong legal skills, and open-minded approach to policy issues will be a great asset to the Council.

Please support his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapio Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

March 31, 2001

Attn: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Re: GM610

I am writing in support of the nomination of Shannon Mears to the Environmental Council. I have known Shannon personally and professionally for a number of years, and believe him to be an excellent fit for the council.

First and foremost, Shannon understands the great responsibility shouldered by members of the council. I believe he would be thoughtful and deliberate in carrying out the mission of the council to balance environmental stewardship with economic vitality. In our many conversations about Hawaii's social, economic, and environmental issues, I have always found Shannon's opinions to be nuanced and well-informed. And whether he knows a topic inside and out, he is always probing to see if he can gain more insight to deepen his knowledge on the subject and gain additional perspectives.

Shannon has a great work ethic and is a highly skilled attorney and researcher. He is bright and incredibly enthusiastic, and I am honored to support his nomination to the Environmental Council. I would be proud to have him serving the State in this capacity.

Mahalo for your time,

Jacy L. Youn

March 27, 2011

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

RE: Nomination to the Environmental Council

Aloha Senator Gabbard,

It is a privilege and an honor to be nominated to the Environmental Council. As a member of the Council, I look forward to working in collaboration with the other members to address the critical issue of environmentally responsible economic growth and development. I understand and appreciate the State's need to grow and diversify economically to provide new and improved opportunities for the residents of the State, while preserving the precious resource of a clean environment that gives and sustains life for everyone. Further, I believe that the necessity of economic development and environmental protection are not in conflict, and that the concept of environmentally responsible economic growth and development is not an oxymoron.

My perception of the role and responsibilities of Council members is no different than what the Legislature has provided. First, to act as a liaison between the general public and the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control by researching and receiving information, concerns, complaints, and recommendations from the public. Second, the Council should provide recommendations to the Director to promote environmentally responsible economic development. Third, the Council should monitor the proper implementation of the State's environmental laws, rules, regulations, and policies.

Through my education and training as a lawyer, and the training received while working for a non-partisan drafting agency, I have developed the necessary skills to qualify as a member of the Council. Primarily, I have honed an ability to be thoughtful and impartial. I also understand the purpose and importance of the legislative process as well as reliance on legislative intent when grappling with difficult questions of how the law should be applied. Additionally, I have the ability to collaborate with people of divergent backgrounds, interests, and strengths to make the group greater than the sum of its parts.

At the end of my term of service, I hope to have helped to ensure a framework of environmentally responsible economic development throughout the State. I feel it

is our duty as stewards of the Earth to leave it as good, if not better, than we found it, and provide equal enjoyment of the Earth to all people. Further, I believe it is the duty of the Council to ensure equal application of the law to all people so that residents, businesses, and all interested stakeholders can make informed decisions with confidence that the law remains constant and predictable. Predictability is one of the greatest engines for economic development and environmental protection.

The three qualities that I possess and that would be most beneficial to the Council are my integrity, open-mindedness, and strong work ethic. It is vital that the members of the Council possess a high degree of integrity because the role of the Council is so important in establishing environmental policies for the State. It is important that the members of the Council remain open-minded and thoughtful when deliberating because the Council solicits information, opinions, concerns, and complaints from the public. My desire to work will also benefit the Council because, if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as a member of the Council, I will feel no sense of entitlement, but a realization of the responsibility to work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Hawaii.

My experience of going through law school will be beneficial to the Council. As a lawyer, I have been trained to think critically and impartially, and to determine where a specific dispute fits into the constellation of prior decisions. It is important that to ensure predictability for all stakeholders, the Council be able to research cutting edge issues and place them within the context of the State's environmental laws and policies.

One potential conflict of interest could arise during my service on the Council because I work for a non-partisan drafting agency at the Capitol, and this agency researches, drafts, and reviews legislation that relates to the Council and the environmental policies of the State. To overcome even the slightest appearance of impropriety, and in collaboration with my supervisors, I have already been walled off from any assignments that deal with the Council or any derivative issue related thereto.

I am humbled by my nomination to the Environmental Council by Governor Abercrombie. I feel a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility for the opportunity to serve the State, and if confirmed, I will be a thoughtful, fair, and tireless servant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Mears', written in a cursive style.

Shannon Mears